

radical democracy

a digital inventory of
transformative ideas,
documents, quotes and
conversations

radical democracy: an inventory of transformational ideas, documents, quotes and conversations.

version 1.2



eighteen original [interviews](#) with radicals from the early 1960s through today. oh, yes.



an archive of radical statements, guides, manifestos, and other [documents](#)



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produced by david olson

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Thanks to the radical activists, organizers, teachers, dreamers and thinkers young and old interviewed for this project. More interviews coming soon.

Thanks also to Jon Moodie, Jana Martin, Hava Gurevich, Alan Haber and Georgia Olson for their contributions to this project.

This project is offered free of charge in hopes of helping to facilitate positive change. Please share widely. Gifts of any amount are gratefully accepted and will help fund future projects.

Gratitude.

**Sit down
and read.**

**Educate
yourself for
the coming
conflicts.**

**Mary Harris “Mother” Jones
Organizer/Hell-raiser
1837-1930**



interviews



documents



more

forward

Poverty and debt. Racism, sexism and bigotry. Environmental catastrophe. Endless war for profit.

From protests in the streets to mainstream calls for political revolution, people are losing faith in our basic social, political and economic systems and institutions.

Nationalism and fraudulent leaders won't save us any more than continuing the neoliberal policies and corrupt politics that got us here. Only we can save ourselves—and each other.

Rediscovering our own agency, we are collectively imagining what a truly free and democratic society would look like—and organizing to make that vision real through fundamental, systemic, radical change.

Join us.



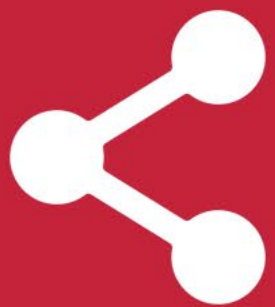
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**The time has come
for us to reimagine
everything.**

**We have to reimagine work
and go away from labor.**

**We have to reimagine revolution
and get beyond protest.**

**We have to think not only about
change in our institutions,
but changes in ourselves.**



**Grace Lee Boggs
Teacher/Revolutionary
1915-2015**

Radical democracy





In order for us as poor and oppressed people to become part of a society that is meaningful, the system under which we now exist has to be radically changed. This means that we are going to have to learn to think in radical terms.

I use the term radical in its original meaning--getting down to and understanding the root cause. It means facing a system that does not lend itself to your needs and devising means by which you change that system.

Ella Baker 1963

**Freedom Movement Organizer
SCLC/SNCC**



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One of the great liabilities of history is that all **too many people fail to remain awake** through great periods of social change.

Every society has its protectors of the status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for **sleeping through revolutions.**

But today **our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake**, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to **face the challenge of change.**

**MILK
1967**

**#getwoke
#staywoke**

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...**radical?**

and how!

The change we need requires more than simply switching parties or elected officials, tweaking policy, or modest, incremental reform.

The political, social, and economic institutions and systems that define our society are arbitrary, and should work for the common good. Those that do not, need to be radically reformed or dismantled and replaced.

The goal of our healthcare system should be to provide healthcare, not to make a profit.

The goal of our criminal justice system should be community safety, not to generate revenue and marginalize minorities, or enforce corrupt political and economic systems.

The goal of our press should be to inform the people, not to support a system that keeps most people in debt and without political power.

And so on.

and now!

The existing political and economic order is crashing, while creating environmental catastrophe and crushing economic inequality for which it has no solutions.

Our political parties give the appearance of facilitating citizen participation in a functioning, democratic, process... while in fact serving as conduits for corporate money and influence, supporting an immoral status quo, and minimizing the impact of the people's will.

The result is a thoroughly corrupted political system that serves the few at the expense of the many.

It's time to reject a politics rigged to benefit the 1% and to reimagine government as a creative, collaborative decision-making process, with all voices heard and all people participating.



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Both wings of the establishment, however, agree on the basic framework of American society:

Economic power should be kept by the wealthy, and the government's first priority is to maintain the capitalist system.

George Lakey

**Toward a Living Revolution
1970**



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2016 PRES. ELECTION
PHILLY / DNC

#RADICALDEMOCRACY



**The changes we need are
systemic changes, not just
personnel changes.**

**There's absurdity piled upon
absurdity here: corporations
are not people. Money is not
speech. Big-time money
is power, not speech.**

John Raines

**Freedom Rider/Professor of Theology Temple
University, retired/Peace Activist**

**The Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI
helped expose COINTELPRO**



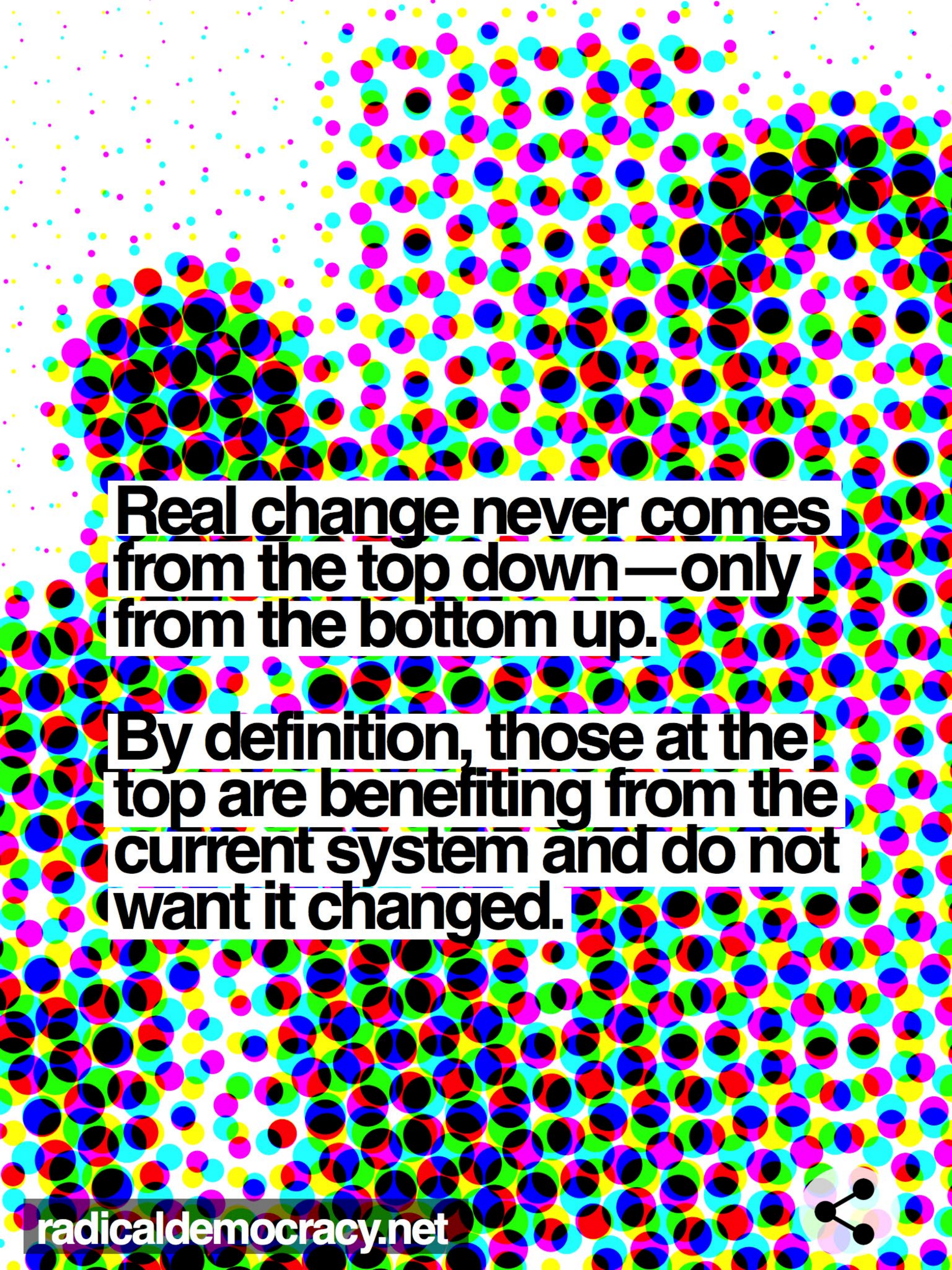
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**The history
of the past
is but one
long struggle
upward
to equality.**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton
suffragist/abolitionist
/social activist
1815-1902



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**Real change never comes
from the top down—only
from the bottom up.**

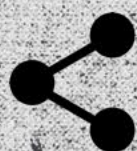
**By definition, those at the
top are benefiting from the
current system and do not
want it changed.**



The ruling class is
not restrained by
scruples — only by
their estimation of
the political
consequences of
their actions.

**Prairie Fire: The Politics of
Revolutionary Anti-Imperialism**

The Weather Underground, 1974



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History should emphasize new possibilities by disclosing those hidden episodes of the past when people showed their ability to resist, to join together, and to occasionally win.

Howard Zinn

A People's History of the United States



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I MARCH
FOR EQUAL
RIGHTS
FOR ALL. WOW!
WHAT A RADICAL
IDEA.

SORRY...
DID MY
CIVIL RIGHTS
GET IN THE
WAY OF YOUR
BIGOTRY?



**Power concedes
nothing without a
demand. It never did
and it never will.**

**If there is no struggle,
there is no progress.**

frederick douglass
abolitionist/suffragist
orator/writer



**Will you join a joyful
struggle...**

for justice?

for peace?

for equality?

for love?



...for water?



#standingrock
#honortreatyrights

#waterislife
radicaldemocracy.net

CHRISTIANS
AGAINST
THE
MUSLIM
BAN

NO
MUSL
b

...for each other?

WE ARE
ALL

IMMIGRANTS



A blue-tinted photograph of a protest scene. In the center, a person with a long beard and a baseball cap is seen from behind, with their arms raised in a gesture of surrender or protest. They are surrounded by police officers in full riot gear, including helmets, goggles, and gas masks. One officer on the right has "POLICE" written on their vest. The background shows a street with a fence and some equipment.

...for your life?

#blacklivesmatter

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All those who are affected by social institutions must have a share in producing and managing them.

A democracy is more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint community experience.

John Dewey
philosopher/educator
1859-1952



demos/ kratos

***demos:* by or belonging
to the people**

***kratos:* to rule or make
decisions**

**democracy:
rule by the people**



But who are the people, and how do they rule?

The more inclusive the definition of “the people” and the greater their participation in making the decisions that affect their lives, the more democratic a society is.

In the US we have focused mostly on the “who,” by expanding the right to vote. But we must also expand *how* we participate, beyond merely voting, and towards a more transparent, horizontal and participatory democracy. Voting every few years for candidates pre-screened and sponsored by elite capitalists is an anemic form of democracy.

In a Republic, the power resides in the people. We temporarily invest the authority to exercise that power in individuals who agree to represent our interests, and to respect and protect certain rights—including transparent and free elections, freedom of the press and of assembly, and access to common resources.

This agreement is known as the social contract, and is referenced as “the consent of the governed” in the Declaration of Independence.



When a politician or pundit tells you that what you want is “politically unrealistic” what they really mean is that it offends dominant class ideology.



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resist.

**A Prince, whose
character is thus
marked by every act
which may define a
Tyrant, is unfit to be
the ruler of a free
people.**

**The Declaration
of Independence
1776**



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When politicians betray the public trust by failing to honor the social contract, or the systems and institutions they operate become corrupted, the people may withdraw support and replace them.

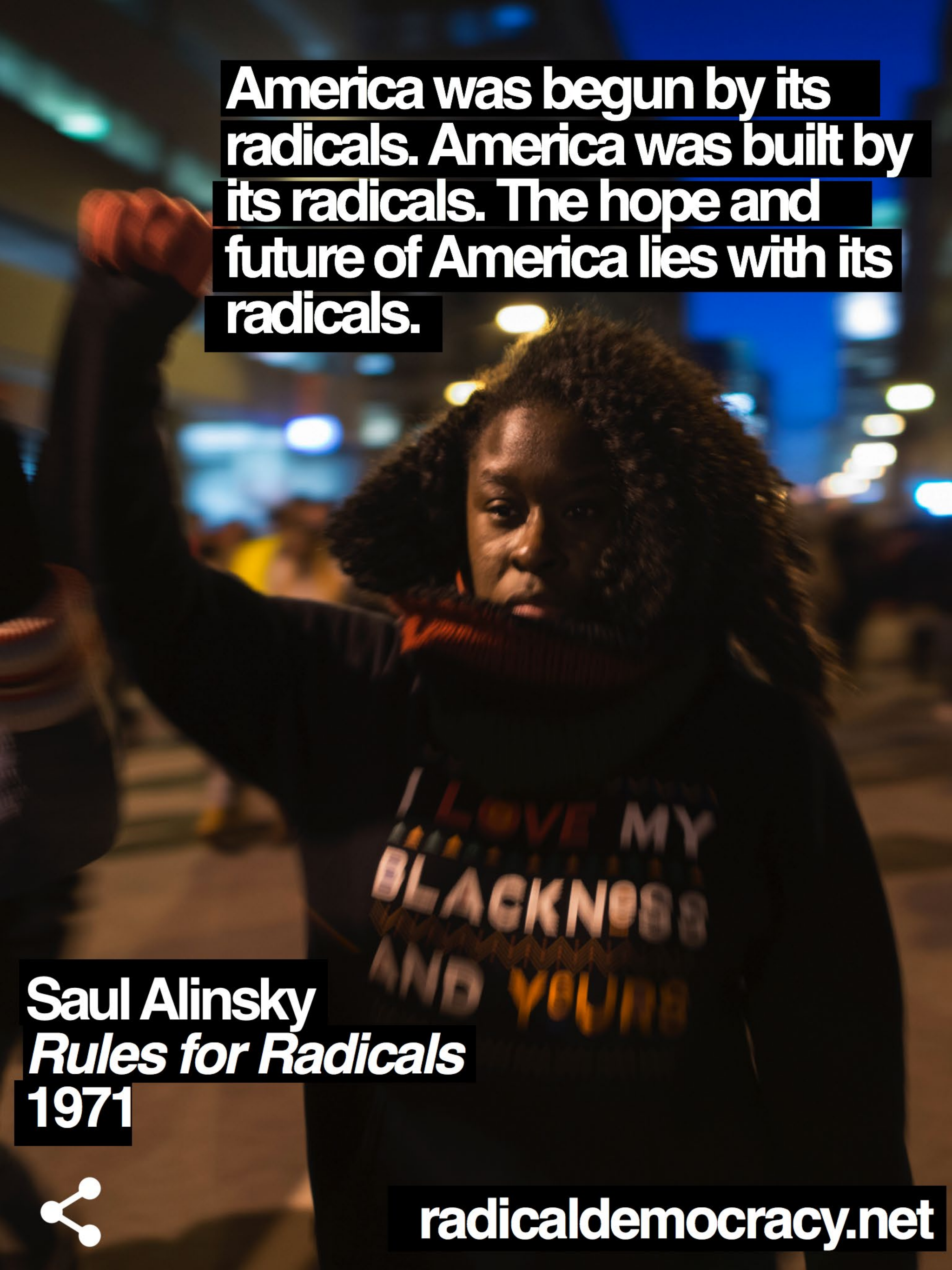
**Power
rests with
the people.**



The future has a past.



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America was begun by its radicals. America was built by its radicals. The hope and future of America lies with its radicals.

Saul Alinsky
Rules for Radicals
1971



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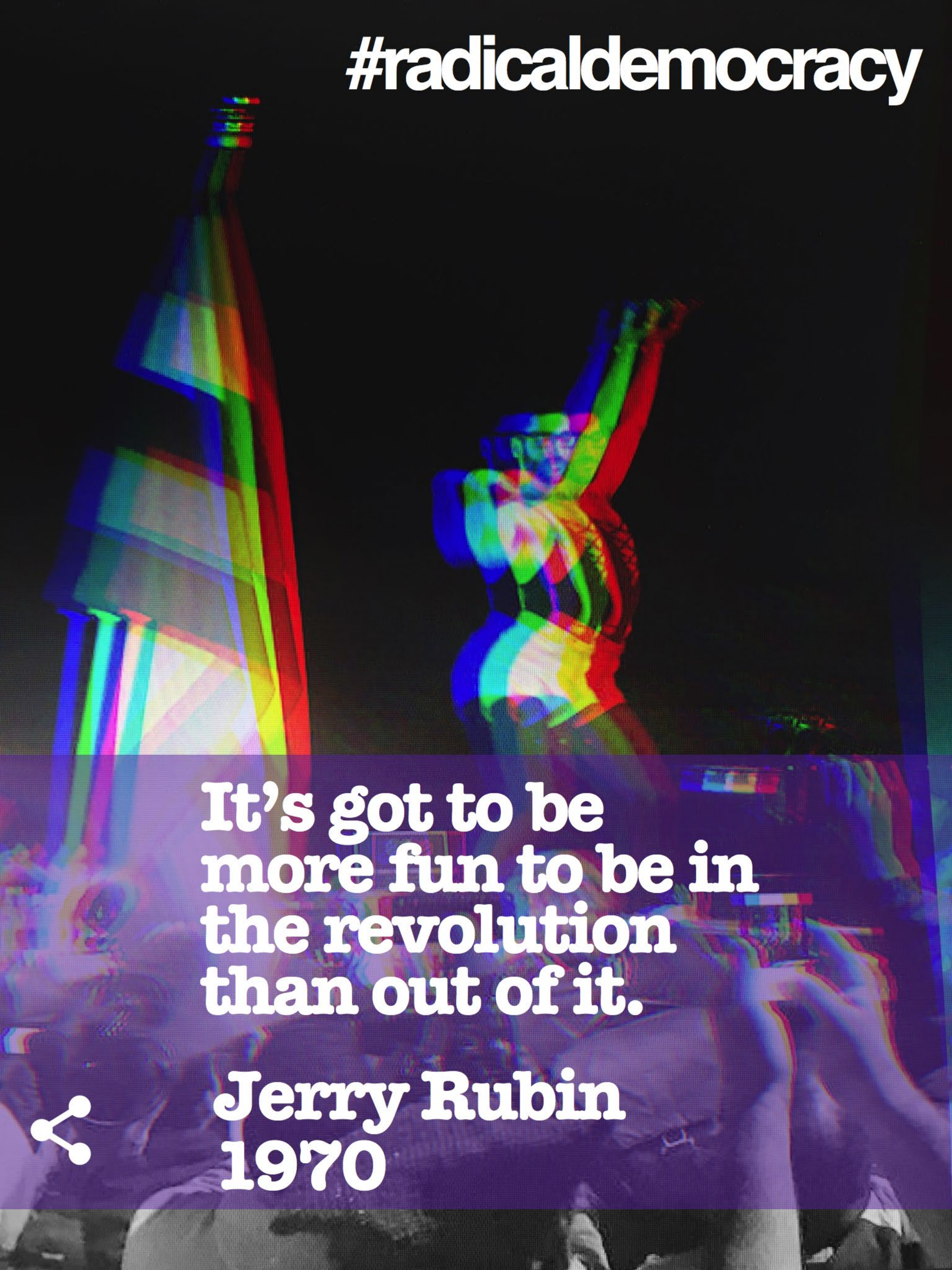
As one people, united, we acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power.

We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and oppression over equality, run our governments.

Join us and let your voices be heard!

Declaration from the
Occupation
of New York City, 2011
#occupywallst
radicaldemocracy.net





#radicaldemocracy

**It's got to be
more fun to be in
the revolution
than out of it.**

**Jerry Rubin
1970**



It's absolutely imperative that anybody within the movement understands its historical context.

I argue that the Movement for Black Lives is essentially the neo-Civil Rights Movement, and is building upon that legacy. It's imperative for people to understand the historical, social, economic, and political context of our movement in relation to previous movements.

Our movements are not different. They are only separated by time and space.

Dominique Scott/ United Students Against Sweatshops, Movement for Black Lives.

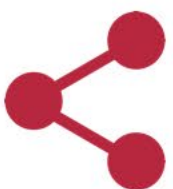
**#blacklivesmatter
#radicaldemocracy**



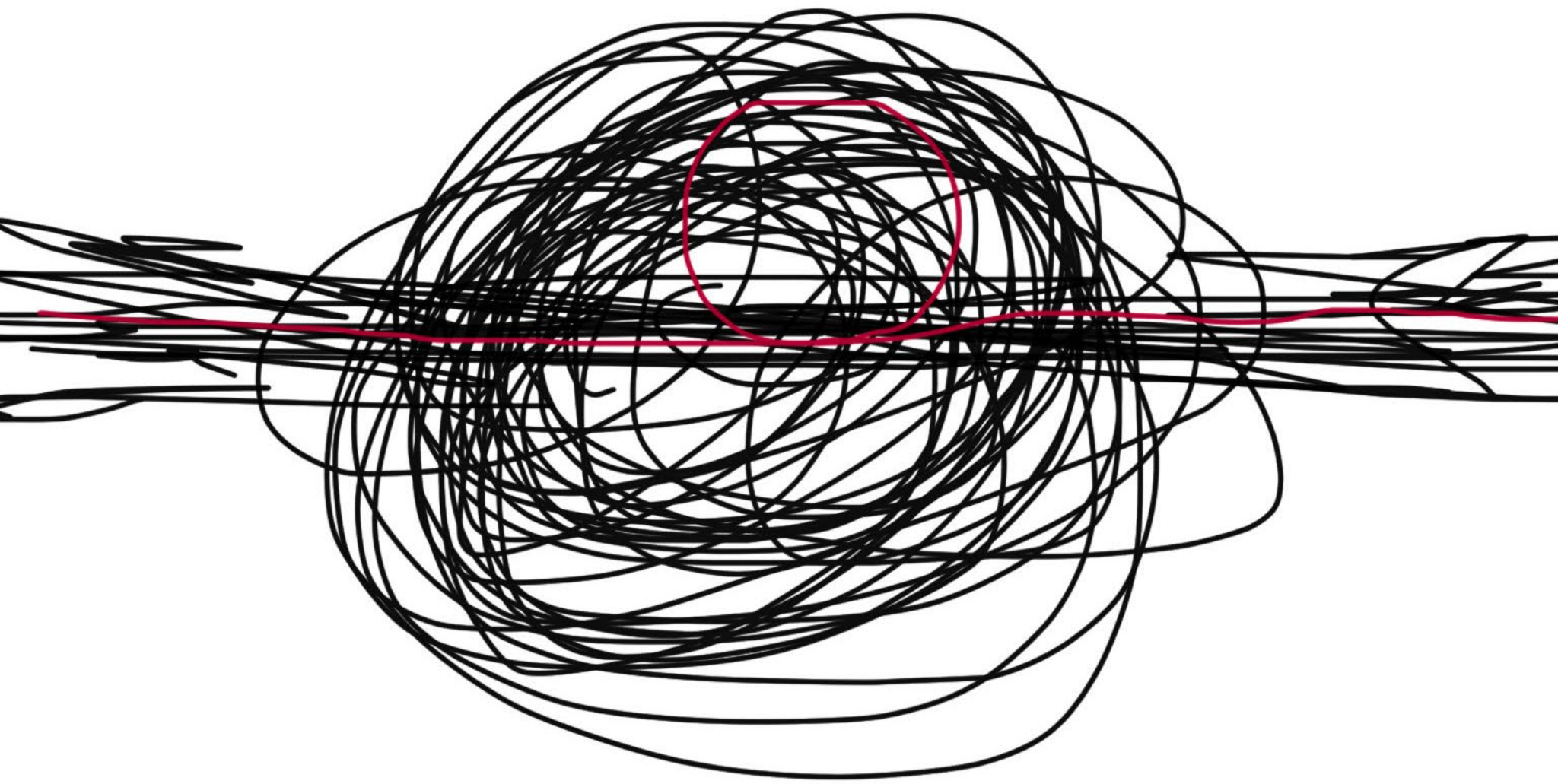
The future has a past.

**It's called
the
present.**

What we do today creates our tomorrow.



**So, what sort of future shall we make
together?**



**We would replace power
rooted in possession,
privilege, or circumstance
by power and uniqueness
rooted in love,
reflectiveness, reason
and creativity.**

**The Port Huron Statement
1962**



#radicaldemocracy



We are going to stand up for social justice, for racial equality, for women to have their whole damn dollar, for our babies to be educated.

In order for us to do this, we have to commit ourselves to having the courage and chutzpa to speak truth to power, to organize, to stay together, to put out our list of demands, and not to relent one iota on the things that we believe in.

**Nina Turner
activist/organizer
former ohio state senator
the people's summit 2016**

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We need a fundamental shift in how we think, which I would call a revolution.

It has to be a shift in consciousness, and that starts bottom-up.

We need to declare our values. We need to say, “This is what we need, and this is what we care about. I’m going to vote for my values, I’m going to get involved, and I’m going to fight.”

**moumita ahmed / cofounder,
millennials for bernie sanders
/ millennials for revolution
2017**



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JUSTICE



Information is power.

But like all power,
there are those who
want to keep it for
themselves.

Guerilla **Open Access**

Manifesto

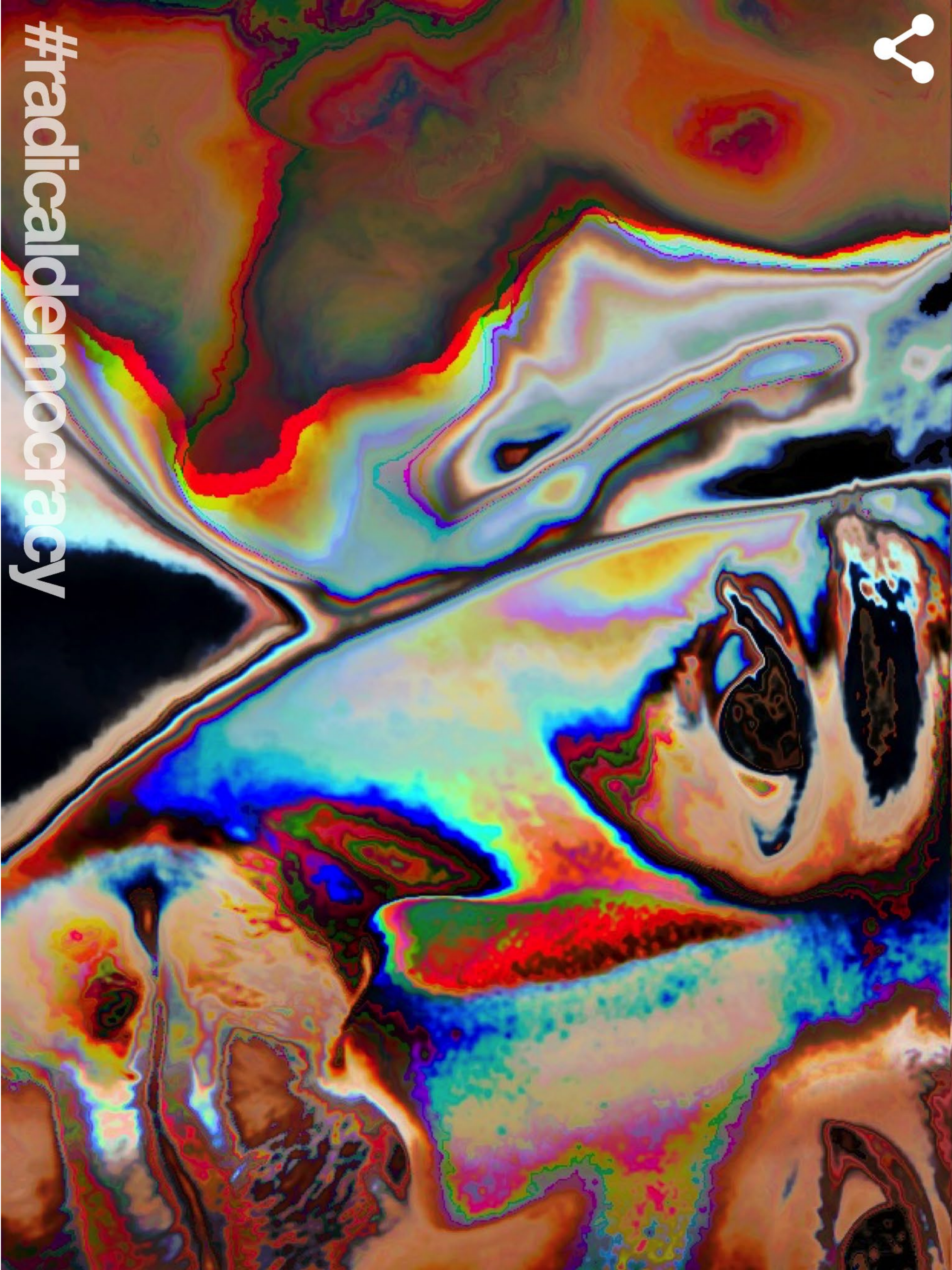
Aaron Swratz, 2008



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**These programs were
never about terrorism:
they're about economic
spying, social control, and
diplomatic manipulation.**

They're about power.

**Edward Snowden
US Intelligence Whistleblower**

#radicaldemocracy



=====

This is our world now... the world of the electron and the switch, the beauty of the baud. We make use of a service already existing without paying for what could be dirt-cheap if it wasn't run by profiteering gluttons, and you call us criminals. We explore... and you call us criminals. We seek after knowledge... and you call us criminals. We exist without skin color, without nationality, without religious bias... and you call us criminals. You build atomic bombs, you wage wars, you murder, cheat, and lie to us and try to make us believe it's for our own good, yet we're the criminals.

Yes, I am a criminal. My crime is that of curiosity. My crime is that of judging people by what they say and think, not what they look like. My crime is that of outsmarting you, something that you will never forgive me for.

I am a hacker, and this is my manifesto. You may stop this individual, but you can't stop us all...



+++The Mentor+++

**The internet is not only
about the sharing of ideas
and information.**

**It's about democratic means
of organization. It's about
decentralizing power.**

**That's why nearly every
government and corporation
on the planet is against net
neutrality.**

And why we must fight for it.

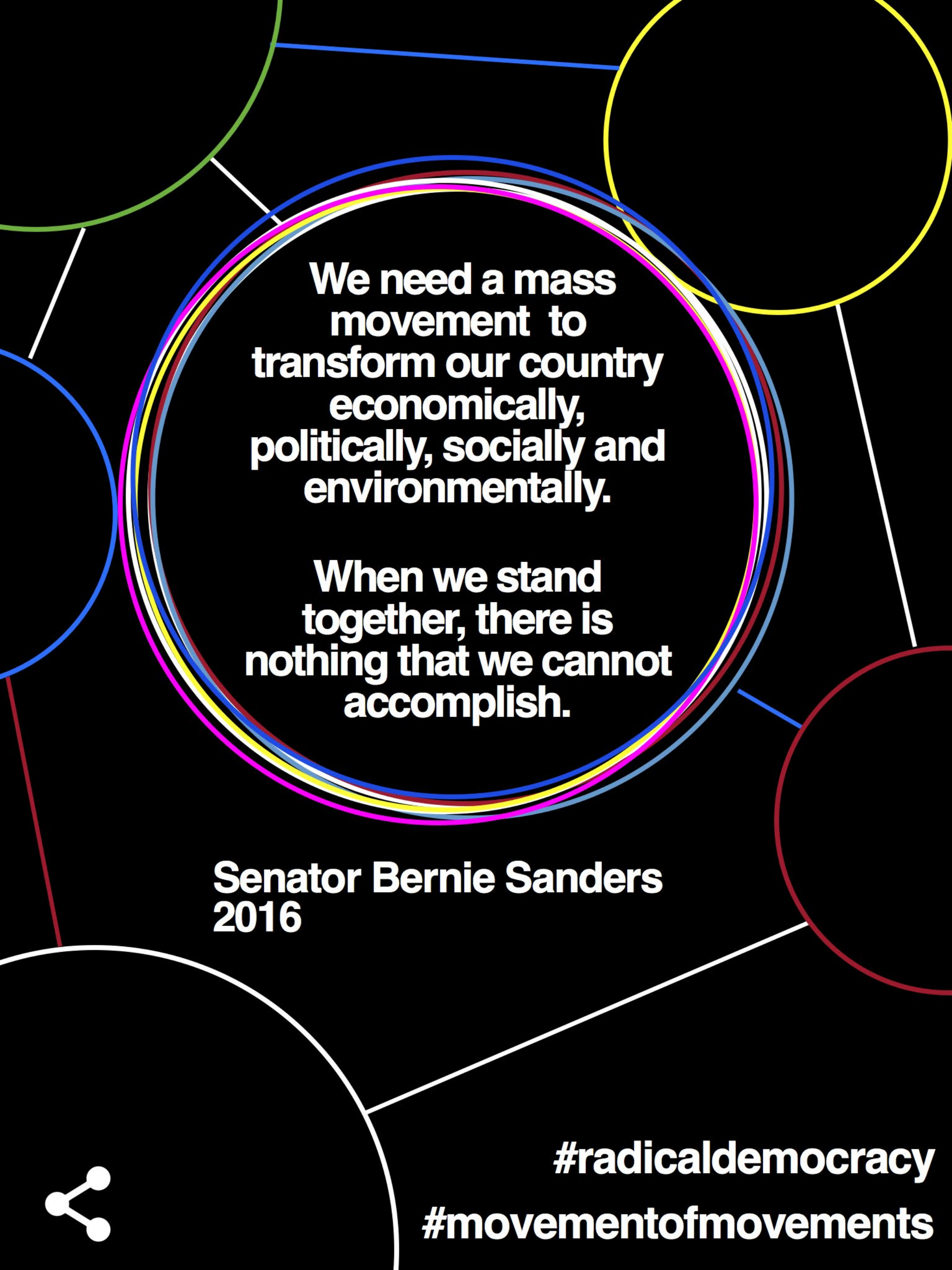


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**There is no such thing
as a single-issue struggle
because we do not live
single-issue lives.**

**Audre Lorde
writer/poet/
feminist/activist**



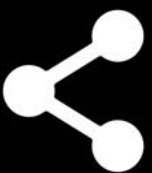


**We need a mass
movement to
transform our country
economically,
politically, socially and
environmentally.**

**When we stand
together, there is
nothing that we cannot
accomplish.**

**Senator Bernie Sanders
2016**

**#radicaldemocracy
#movementofmovements**



“There's no way that Black people are going to get free while indigenous people still have no control over the land and over their destiny.

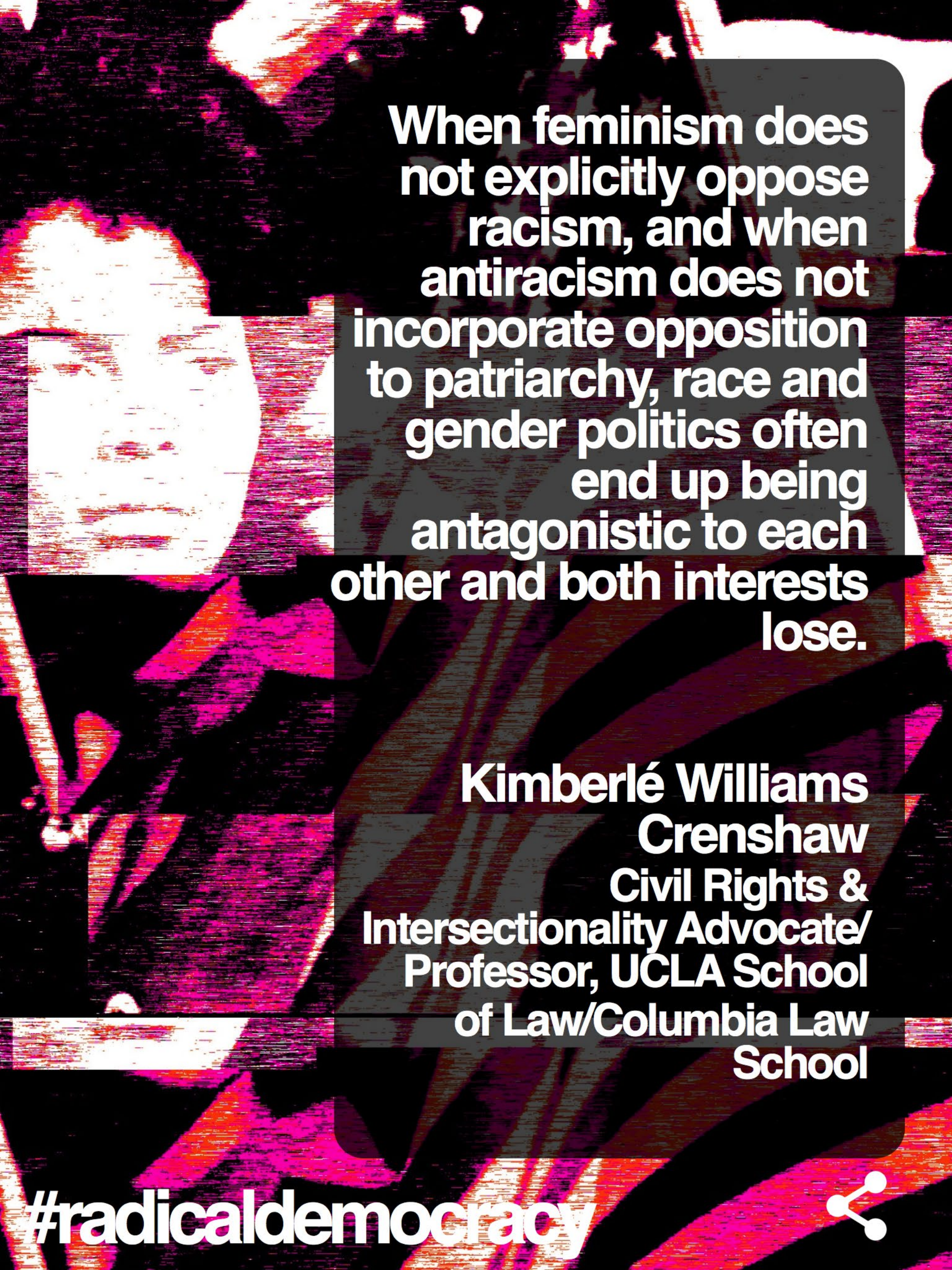
That connection is the same connection between struggles in this land and struggles in Palestine. It's a similar colonial occupation, deeply racist, denying the right to national self-determination.

”

Nabil Hassein
millions march nyc
2016



#radicaldemocracy
#movementforblacklives



When feminism does not explicitly oppose racism, and when antiracism does not incorporate opposition to patriarchy, race and gender politics often end up being antagonistic to each other and both interests lose.

**Kimberlé Williams
Crenshaw
Civil Rights &
Intersectionality Advocate/
Professor, UCLA School
of Law/Columbia Law
School**

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The big organizing model that can fuel revolutions believes that **communities are filled with talented and intelligent people** who understand what is broken and, when given material and strategic resources, can wrest power from elites and make lasting change.

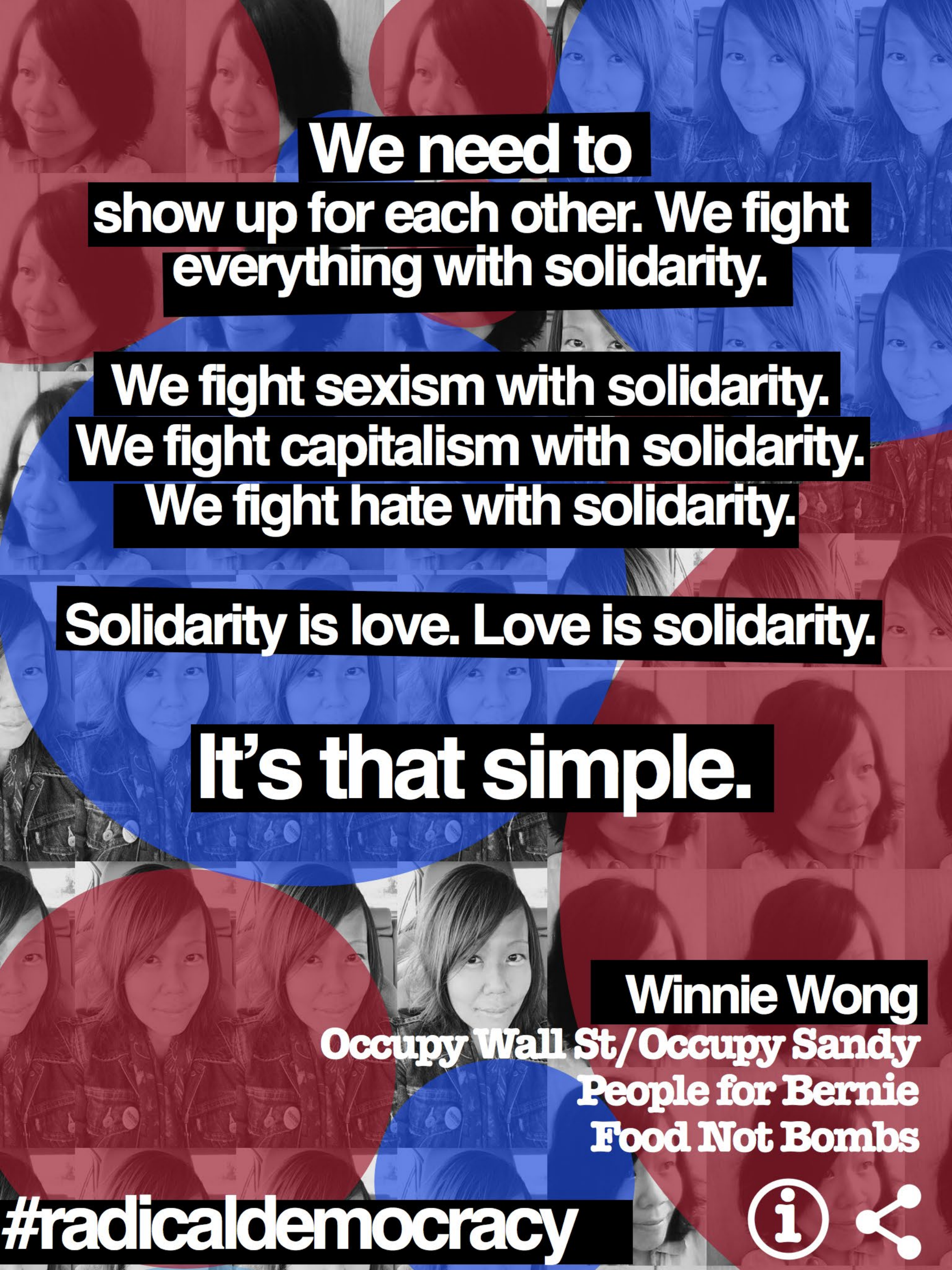
Rules for Revolutionaries:

**How Big Organizing Can
Change Everything**

Becky Bond and Zack Exley



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**We need to
show up for each other. We fight
everything with solidarity.**

**We fight sexism with solidarity.
We fight capitalism with solidarity.
We fight hate with solidarity.**

Solidarity is love. Love is solidarity.

It's that simple.

Winnie Wong
Occupy Wall St/Occupy Sandy
People for Bernie
Food Not Bombs

#radicaldemocracy



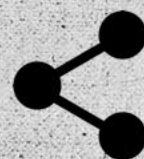
What We Want Now!

We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.

We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present day society.

We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people.

Black Panther Party
10 Point Program, 1966



#blacklivesmatter

#radicaldemocracy



**There is no more neutrality in
the world. You either have to
be part of the solution, or
you're going to be part of
the problem.**

**Eldridge Cleaver
black panther party
1968**

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Who governs? Who really rules?

The central point that emerges from our research is that economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while mass-based interest groups and average citizens have little or no independent influence.

**Testing Theories of American Politics:
Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens**
Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page
Political Perspectives, 2014



**Nothing terrifies
those running
America more
than the danger of
true democracy
breaking out.**

**David Graeber
Prof. of Anthropology,
London School of Economics
Anarchist
Occupy Wall Street**

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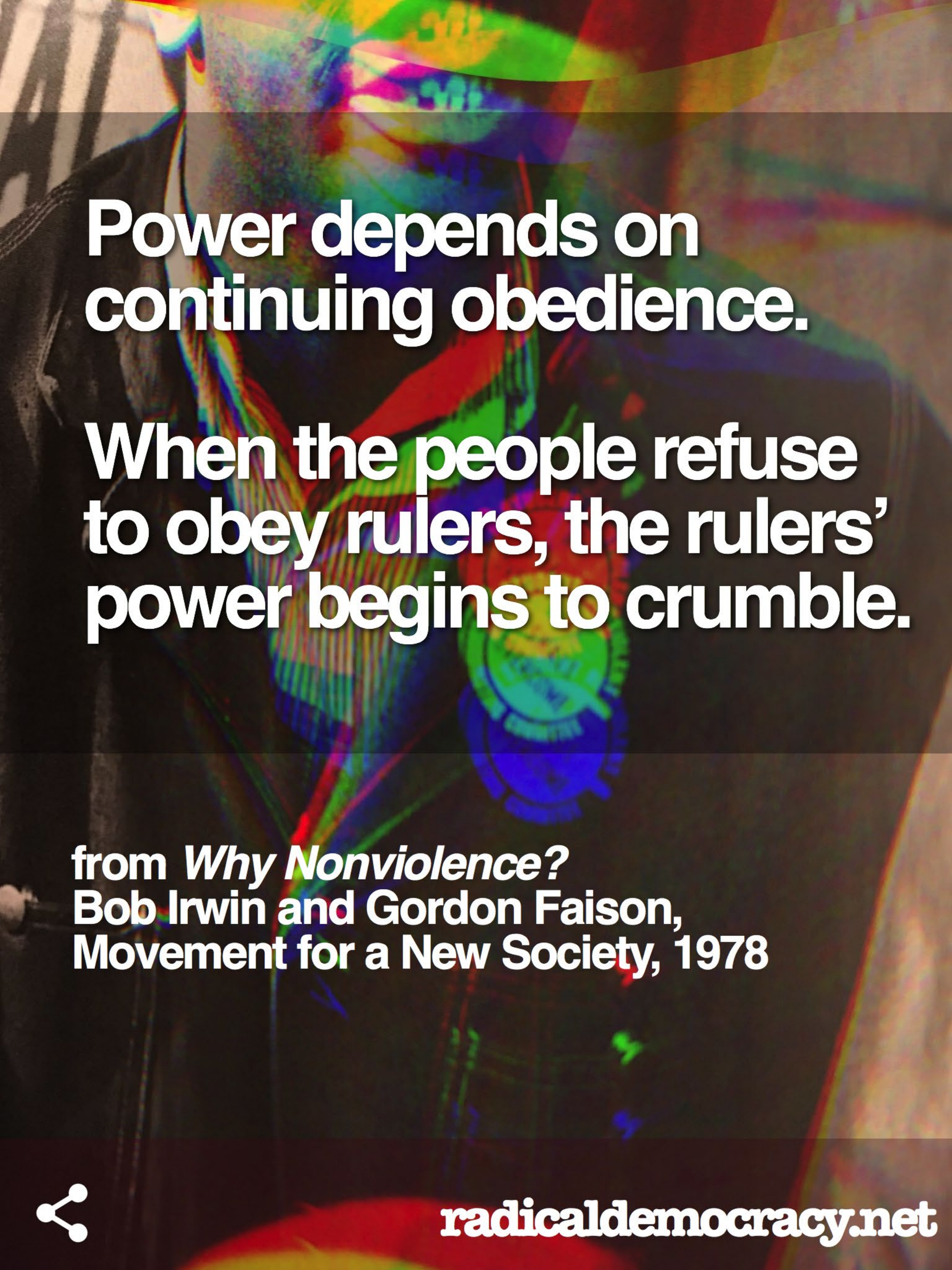


What comes to pass does
so not so much because a
few people want it to
happen, as because the
mass of citizens abdicate
their responsibility and
let things be.

antonio gramsci
neo-marxist
political theorist
1891-1937



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**Power depends on
continuing obedience.**

**When the people refuse
to obey rulers, the rulers'
power begins to crumble.**

**from *Why Nonviolence?*
Bob Irwin and Gordon Faison,
Movement for a New Society, 1978**



I am opposing a social order in which it is possible for one man who does absolutely nothing that is useful to amass a fortune of hundreds of millions of dollars, while millions of men and women who work all the days of their lives secure barely enough for a wretched existence.

**Eugene Debs
Co-founder,
Industrial Workers of the World
5 time Presidential candidate,
US Socialist Party**



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Our society is defined by a “system-of-systems” – social, political, and economic – whose main function is to transfer more wealth and power to those who already have it.



That shit is about to end.



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Banks, financial regulators and tax authorities have failed. Hopelessly inefficient and backwards courts have failed. The media has failed. The legal profession has failed.

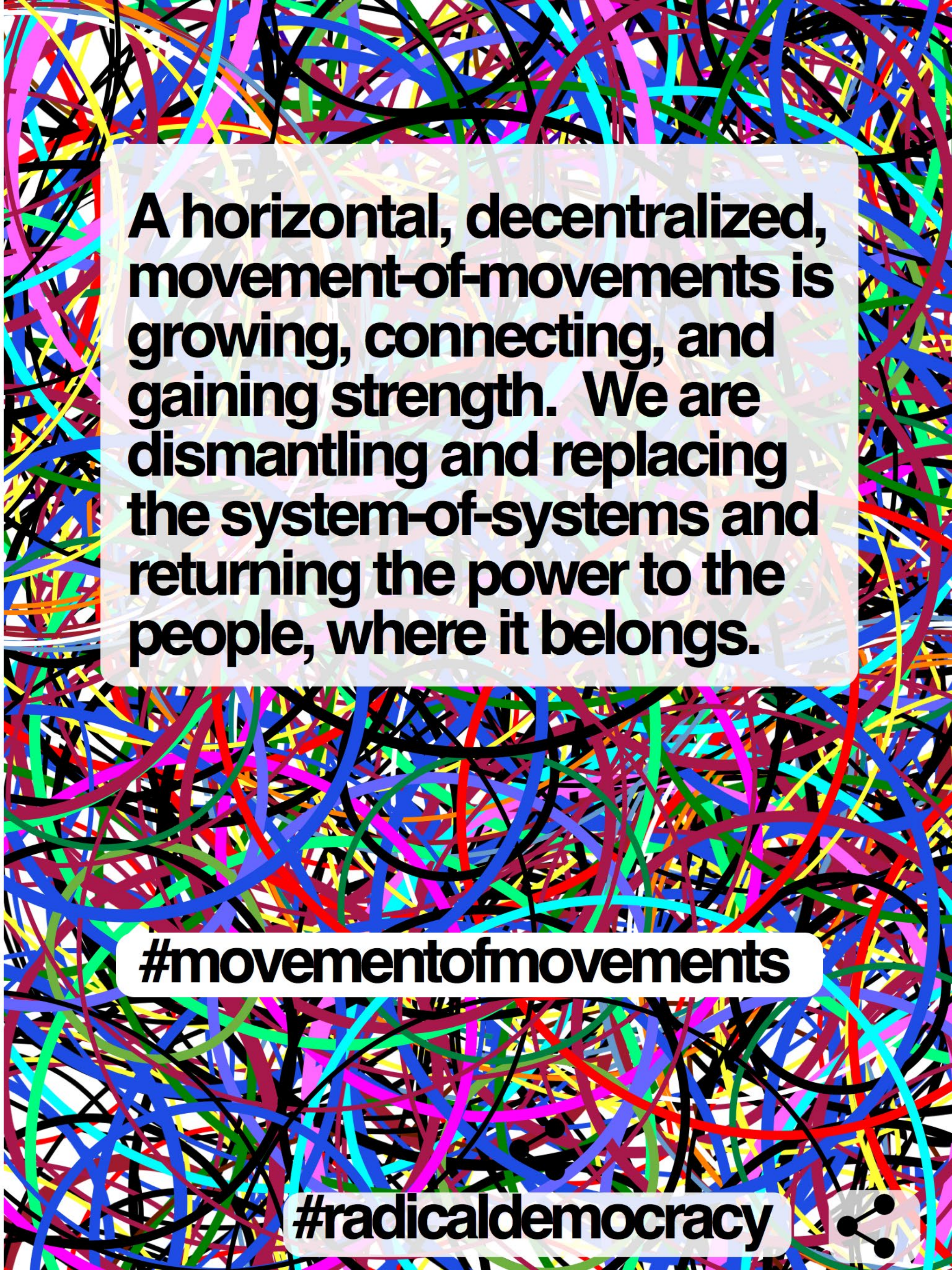
The collective impact of these failures has been a complete erosion of ethical standards, ultimately leading to a novel system we still call capitalism, but which is tantamount to economic slavery.

In this system—our system—the slaves are unaware both of their status and of their masters, who exist in a world apart where the intangible shackles are carefully hidden amongst reams of legalese.

**Anonymous Leaker of
the Panama Papers
The Revolution Will Be Digitized
2016**



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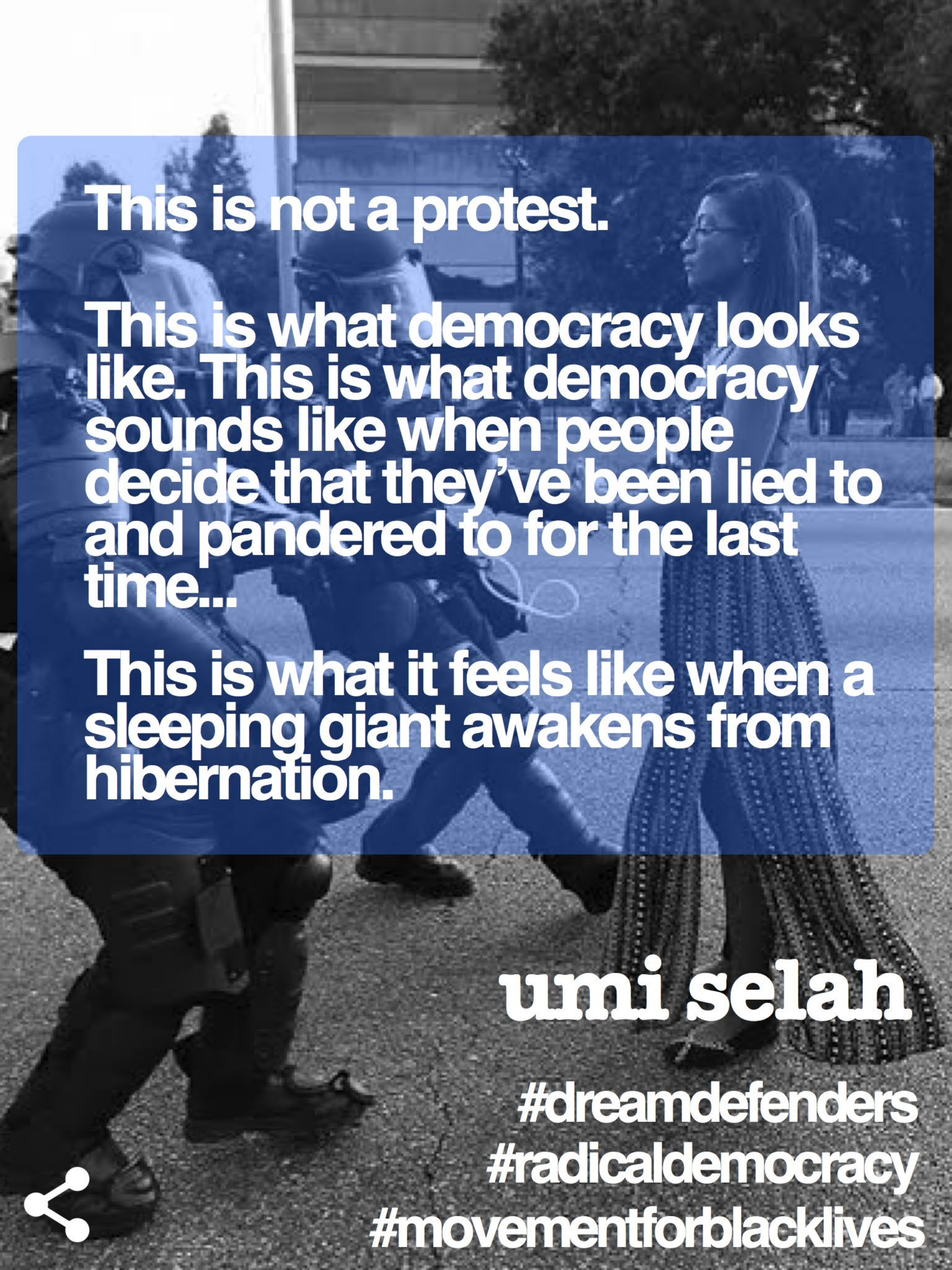


A horizontal, decentralized, movement-of-movements is growing, connecting, and gaining strength. We are dismantling and replacing the system-of-systems and returning the power to the people, where it belongs.

#movementofmovements

#radicaldemocracy



A woman in a patterned dress is walking past police officers in riot gear during a protest. The scene is overlaid with a blue semi-transparent box containing text.

This is not a protest.

This is what democracy looks like. This is what democracy sounds like when people decide that they've been lied to and pandered to for the last time...

This is what it feels like when a sleeping giant awakens from hibernation.

umi selah

#dreamdefenders

#radicaldemocracy

#movementforblacklives



RADICAL AMERICA

September - October, 1967 Vol. 1 No. 2

50¢

The Workers

Produce All



All Should
Belong To
The Workers

An SDS Journal of the History of American Radicalism



Black humanity and dignity requires Black political will and power. Despite constant exploitation and perpetual oppression, Black people have bravely and brilliantly been the driving force pushing the U.S. towards the ideals it articulates but has never achieved.

In recent years we have taken to the streets, launched massive campaigns, and impacted elections, but our elected leaders have failed to address the legitimate demands of our Movement.

We can no longer wait.

**A Vision for Black Lives:
Policy Demands for Black Power,
Freedom, and Justice
2016**

#blacklivesmatter
#radicaldemocracy





SOLIDARITY



I feel like it's a battle between the Trump movement and the Bernie movement, a battle for the future. We want to make sure that the future is a progressive one, and not a fascist one.

Our goal is to build a mass movement of young people to push for change both at the polls and in the streets.

We have to, because there's so much urgency. If we don't, who else is going to step up?

I say this is our moment.

david ian robin / cofounder,
millennials for revolution
2016



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**When we see the
environmental movement
linked up with the
undocumented and unafraid
movement, linked up with
Black Lives Matter, linked up
with the peace movement
and the abolitionist
movement, at that point we
can imagine a massive social
movement that will move
history forward.**

**bill ayers, organizer
weather underground
education reform**



**#radicaldemocracy
#movementofmovements**

The most **critical** thing is that we coordinate with each other, be **democratic** with each other, learn from each other, and ultimately provide **opportunities** for ordinary people to fight for themselves and for their **community**.

Maria Svart/nat'l director
Democratic Socialists of America



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The objective of any radical movement is to break down "false consciousness."

It seeks to reveal to an Individual--by facts, by emotionally powerful experience and by argument--the realities of his actual life situation.

**Radical Education Project
1966**



PROTEST TICKET

Radical Democrats

NEITHER GRANT NOR GREELEY

NO PRESIDENT AT ALL

NO MORE KINGS IN DRESSCOAT

ABOLITION OF THE PRESIDENCY

The Source of all Corruption, all Contention, all Party Tyranny and all Anti-Republican Intrigues.

ANNEXATION of the WHITE HOUSE to the CAPITOL

The Executive Power to be Absorbed by the Legislative. The Separation and Balance of Powers an Antiquated Expedient and Pernicious Delusion. Intellect and Will, Will and Action, Resolution and Execution, belong together.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE

To be Vindicated and made Efficient by Uniting all Powers in the Hands of its RESPONSIBLE Legislative Agents. The Executive only an Administrative Commission of Congress.

REAL DEMOCRACY

The Only Remedy and Safeguard.



POWER
TO THE
PEOPLE

#radicaldemocracy



**Nonviolent action, like war,
is a means of waging conflict.
It requires a willingness to
take risks and bear suffering
without retaliation.**

**On the most fundamental
level, it is a means by which
people discover their social
power.**

**from *Why Nonviolence?*
Bob Irwin and Gordon Faison,
Movement for a New Society
1978**



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We identify with all women. We define our best interest as that of the poorest, most brutally exploited woman.

We repudiate all economic, racial, educational or status privileges that divide us from other women. We are determined to recognize and eliminate any prejudices we may hold against other women.

We are committed to achieving internal democracy. We will do whatever is necessary to ensure that every woman in our movement has an equal chance to participate, assume responsibility, and develop her political potential.

We call on all our sisters to unite with us in struggle.

We call on all men to give up their male privileges and support women's liberation in the interest of our humanity and their own.

In fighting for our liberation we will always take the side of the women against their oppressors. We will not ask what is "revolutionary" or "reformist," only what is good for women.

The time for individual skirmishes has passed. This time we are going all the way.

**Robin Morgan,
Red Stockings Manifesto
Women's Lib Movement
1970**



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Riot GRILL

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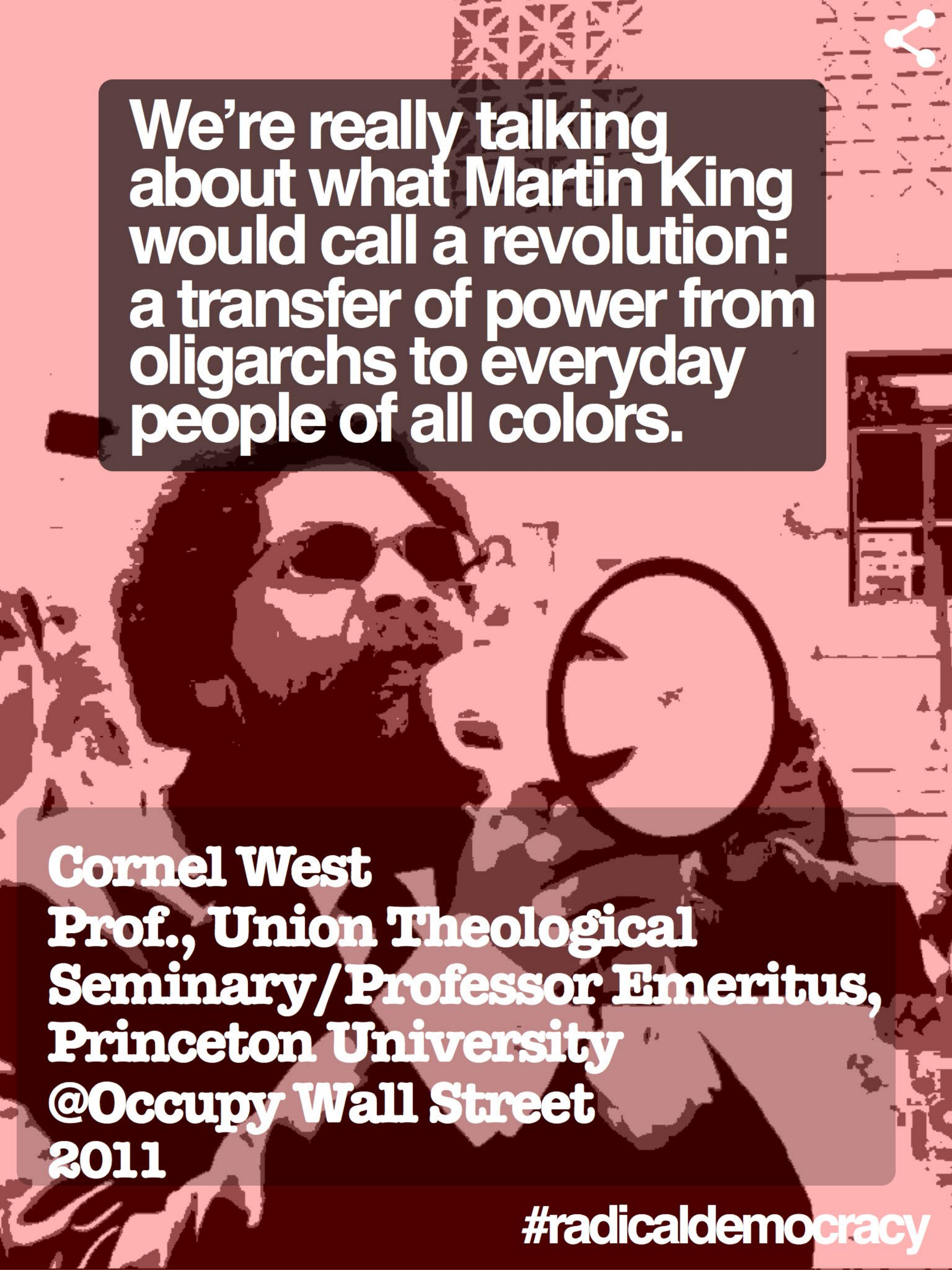
**Movements
erupt mysteriously
on the outside
margins.**

**It's the foolish few
that bring great
hope to history.**

Tom Hayden
Activist/Organizer
California State Senator
Students for a Democratic Society



#radicaldemocracy



**We're really talking
about what Martin King
would call a revolution:
a transfer of power from
oligarchs to everyday
people of all colors.**

**Cornel West
Prof., Union Theological
Seminary/Professor Emeritus,
Princeton University
@Occupy Wall Street
2011**

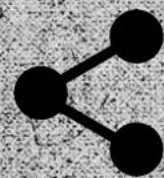
#radicaldemocracy

**Don't think necessarily of
starting a movement.**

**Do what you think actually
needs to be done, set an
example, and hope your
actions will click with
someone else.**

**Bob Moses
Student Non-violent
Coordinating Committee
Mississippi Freedom Summer
The Algebra Project**

#radicaldemocracy



The fight for democratic socialism is the fight for **radical democracy**, the freedom of all people to determine all aspects of their lives to the greatest extent possible.

from *Resistance Rising*,
Democratic Socialists of America, 2016.



#radicaldemocracy

Let's be real.

The economic crisis did not begin with the collapse of the Lehman Brothers in 2008.

Indeed, people of color and poor people have been in a state of crisis since the founding of this country, and for indigenous communities, since before the founding of the nation. We have long known that capitalism serves only the interests of a tiny, mostly white, minority.

Black and brown folks have long known that whenever economic troubles 'necessitate' austerity measures and the people are asked to tighten their belts, we are the first to lose our jobs, our children's schools are the first to lose funding, and our bodies are the first to be brutalized and caged.

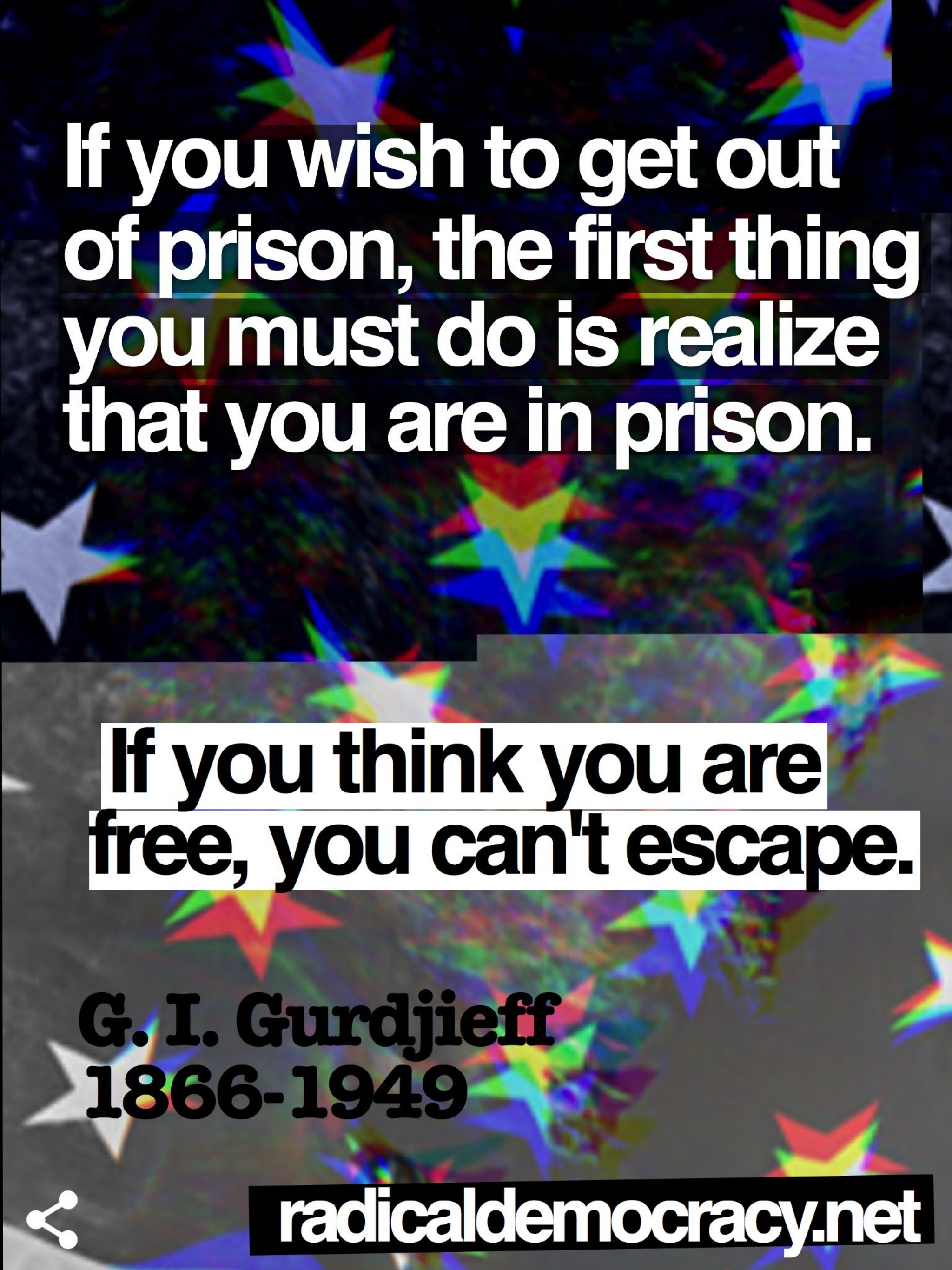
Only we can speak this truth to power. We must not miss the chance to put the needs of people of color—upon whose backs this country was built—at the forefront of this struggle.

**Call Out to People of Color from the
#OWS POC Working Group, 2011**



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**If you wish to get out
of prison, the first thing
you must do is realize
that you are in prison.**

**If you think you are
free, you can't escape.**

**G. I. Gurdjieff
1866-1949**



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**We're going to fight racism
not with racism, but we're
going to fight with solidarity.**

**We say we're not going to
fight capitalism with black
capitalism, but we're going to
fight it with socialism.**

fred hampton

**organizer/chairman/illinois
black panther party for
self-defense**



#radicaldemocracy

Actions take place within campaigns, and campaigns take place within social movements. A social movement is made up of different groups, networks, and individuals moving toward similar systemic goals.

Social movements are powerful because their impact is greater than the sum of their parts.

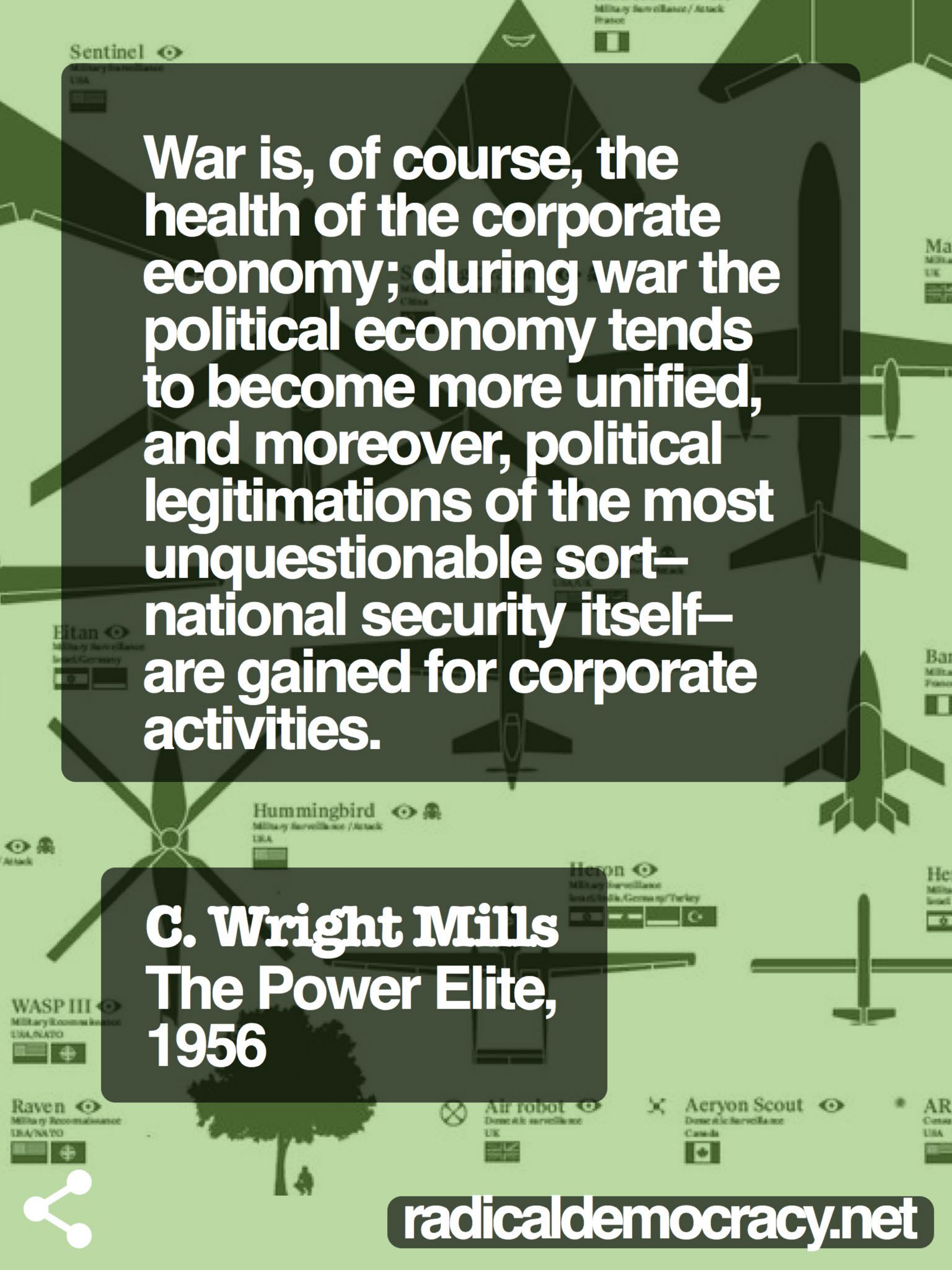
If your actions and campaigns synergize and align with others, it can create exponential change. Smart actions and campaign strategies complement the campaigns other groups are working on and amplify impact.

Remember, no campaign operates in a vacuum, and your work or actions will impact and be impacted by the work of many others.

Action Strategy Guide
The Ruckus Society



#radicaldemocracy



War is, of course, the health of the corporate economy; during war the political economy tends to become more unified, and moreover, political legitimations of the most unquestionable sort—national security itself—are gained for corporate activities.

**C. Wright Mills
The Power Elite,
1956**



**Take
the
red
pill.**



**It was, of course,
the astounding
success of
propaganda
during the war that
opened the eyes of
the intelligent few
in all departments
of life to
the possibilities of
regimenting the
public mind.**

**Edward Bernays, CPI
“The Father of Public Relations”
Propaganda, 1928**





**Propaganda
is to democracy
what
violence is to
dictatorship.**

**Noam
Chomsky**



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“How We Sold America!”

In 1917, the **Committee for Public Information** formed to influence American public opinion to support U.S. participation in World War I.

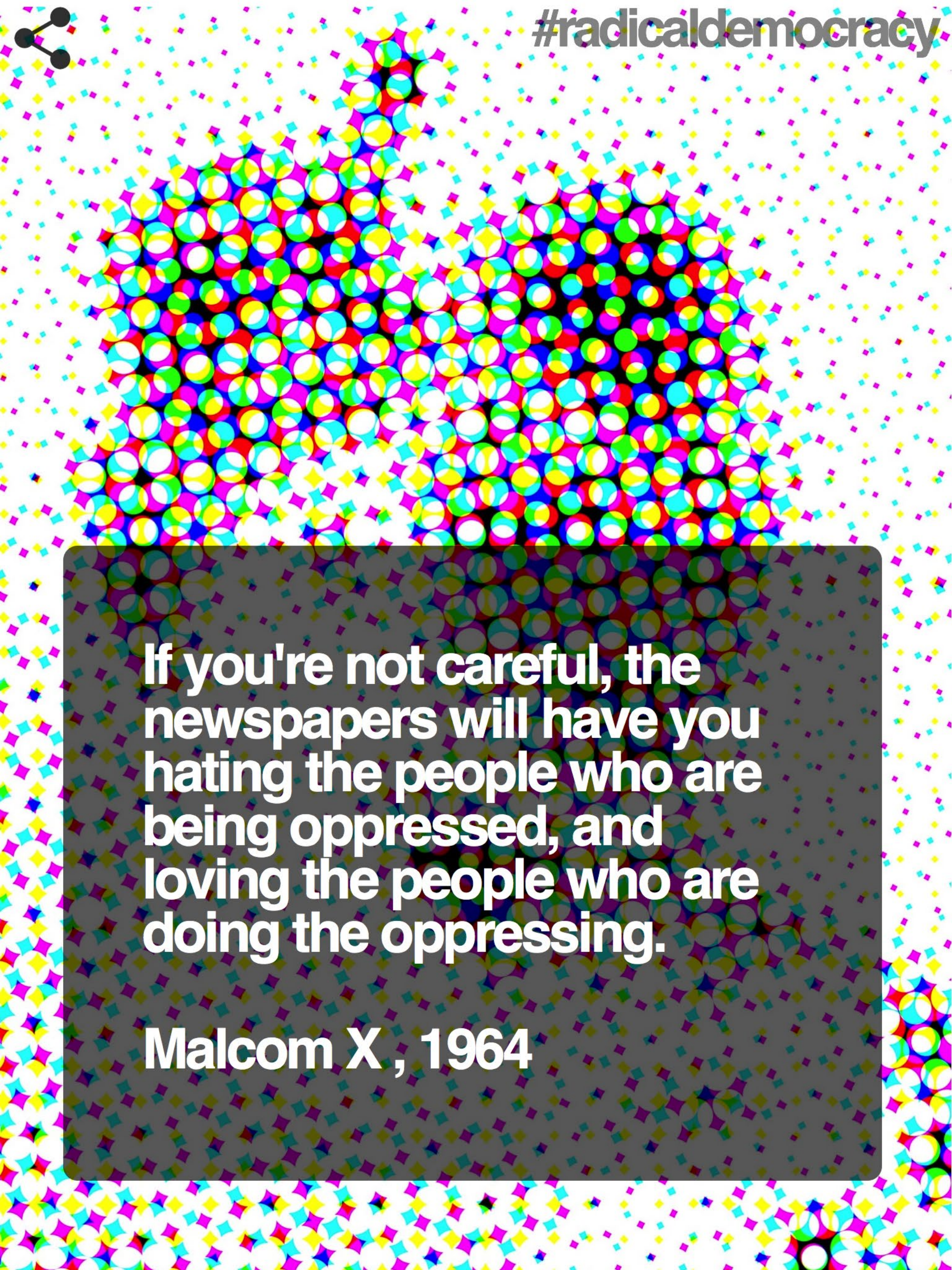
Combining new psychological insight with wireless communication technology, the CPI found they could sway the public by ‘putting pictures in people’s heads’, thereby creating opinions about places or events of which the public had no personal experience.

In this way, they were able to “engineer consent” for the war policies and actions of the government.

The “selling of America” to the world, including domestic audiences, has become a central function of the media during times of peace as well as war. This creates an official version of reality that has enormous power over all of us, framing our experience and actions—even our dissent.

**they’re putting
pictures in your
head.**





**If you're not careful, the
newspapers will have you
hating the people who are
being oppressed, and
loving the people who are
doing the oppressing.**

Malcom X , 1964

CULTURAL HEGEMONY

is the domination of a culturally diverse society by a ruling class who manipulate the culture so that their ruling-class worldview is accepted as the norm, as a universally valid ideology that justifies the social, political, and economic *status quo* as natural, inevitable, and beneficial for everyone, rather than as artificial social constructs that benefit only the ruling class.

Accepting such an ideology prevents a person from perceiving the true nature of their social/economic situation, and is known as...

false consciousness.



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**The
ruling
ideas of
each age
have ever
been the
ideas of
its ruling
class.**

**Karl Marx and Freidrich Engels
The Communist Manifesto, 1848**

A sudden understanding of one's true position and role in society is sometimes called "smashing false consciousness."

**it's also
known as
waking the
fuck up.**

#getwoke

#staywoke



radicaldemocracy.net



No to both parties of war, racism & capitalism

 **Moorehead-Lilly '16**
WORKERS WORLD PARTY.ORG

TPP
=
Climate catastrophe
Thru Sus

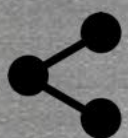
Social order is a human product, or more precisely, an ongoing human production.

The Social Construction of Reality
Peter L. Berger/Thomas Luckmann/1967

Our shared, societal reality is defined by “social constructs” — often unconsciously agreed upon systems, institutions, power structures and relationships.

Election results are as valid as we agree they are. A dollar is worth as precisely as much as we all agree it is—and it **fluctuates continually to reflect this.**

Our daily reality is shaped to a remarkable degree by the way we think, and by the social constructs we agree to. Agreement can be attained by consent, violence/threat of violence, or through deceit and propaganda. In a democracy, it is often by a mix of all three.



#radicaldemocracy

If we think in our present way, we will create the kind of world that we have created.

If we think in another way, we might create a different world, and different people as well.

David Bohm
quantum physicist / communist
On Creativity
1996





WE DEMAND
SEPARATION OF
CORPORATIONS
AND
STATE

**You have to act as
if it were possible to
radically transform
the world.**

**And you have to
do it all the time.**

**Angela Davis
Revolutionary**



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**“Organize,
baby,
organize.”**

**martin luther
king jr, 1967**

#endcorporaterule

#radicaldemocracy



I think one of the disservices done by Marxists of the late '60s and early '70s is that they froze the concept of revolution into something that looked like the revolution in China and Russia, or Cuba.

And so that's what the word "revolution" means: that kind of sudden, sharp, total change in both government and economic systems. I think we need a broader definition of what is revolutionary.

What **Occupy did with the 1% and the 99% was a conceptual revolution for this country, one that was long needed.**

**Bruce Hartford
civil rights/union/peace
organizer/CORE/SCLC/N-VAC
Civil Rights Veterans dot org**

#radicaldemocracy



They have waged class war on us. It is time for our class to fight back.

It's time for us to reach out to one another to fight for the right to organize, to fight corporations that would fight us, to demand that trade agreements protect workers and workers' rights, children, our environment, and our quality of life, and to fight for human dignity.

stewart acuff

**national organizing director,
afl/cio**



radicaldemocracy.net

We want a participatory, socialist society — where people get their needs met, and get to develop their immense amount of human potential.

That means getting at the roots of the systems that keep us from that now, although **there are a lot of things we can win along the way.** It'd really be nice to have a social democracy to fight against instead of this collapsing neoliberal empire.

I think in the big picture we're talking about the **dismantling of the really big and powerful systems** that govern the institutions and values that in turn govern our lives: **racism, capitalism and patriarchy.**

yotam marom
occupy wall street
occupy sandy
wildfire project





revolution

Trump's got **a dozen**
billionaires and half a
dozen generals running the
government. We called that
fascism back in Mussolini
times, when we were precise
about language. But now that
we're "post-factual," it's just
called business.

Well, **business with an army is**
fascism. America first, Israel
first, whoever first... it's the
same thing. **It's fascism.**

alan haber

organizer/activist
founder, students for
a democratic society



**Being
oppressed
means
the absence
of choices.**

bell hooks
author/feminist/activist



radicaldemocracy.net

#radicaldemocracy

There's no cheap way to win major reforms. It's not easy: We have important opponents; they are powerful; they control propaganda. We cannot give up what has always been the major lever of people power.

They need us to cooperate—we have to threaten not to cooperate. That is movement power.

**Francis Fox Piven
The People's Summit, 2016**



**Free your mind
and your ass
will follow.**

**Funkadelic
1970**



#radicaldemocracy

When people refuse their cooperation, withhold their help, and persist in their disobedience and defiance, they are denying their opponents the basic human assistance and cooperation which any government or hierarchical system requires.

If people do this in sufficient numbers for long enough, that government or hierarchical system will no longer have power.

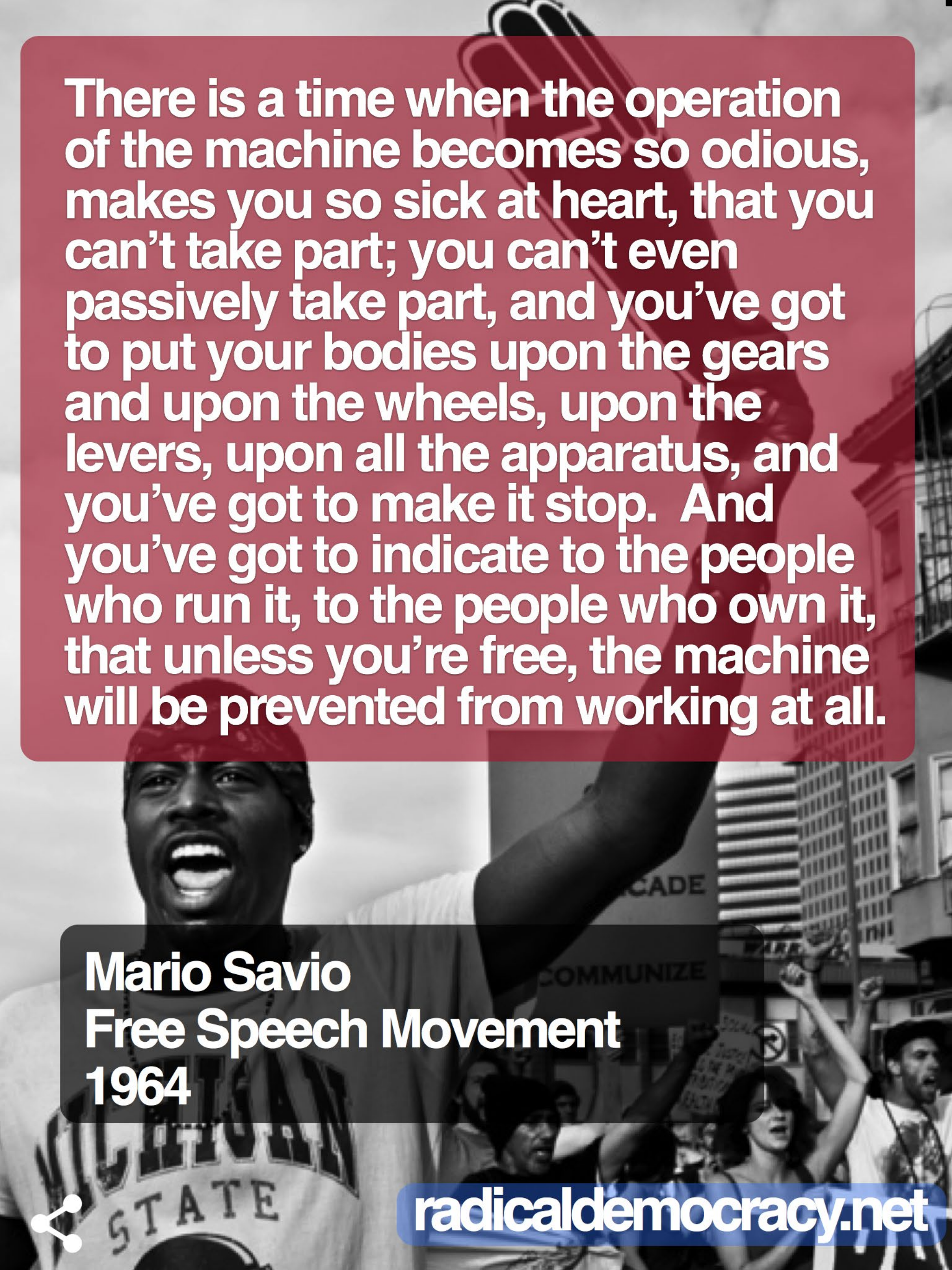
This is the basic political assumption of nonviolent action.

Gene Sharp

How Nonviolent Struggle Works



#radicaldemocracy



There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part; you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all.

Mario Savio
Free Speech Movement
1964

radicaldemocracy.net

“We, the people” remain the final arbiters of our democratic values.

That’s the bottom line, and you can be empowered by that. Not only empowered, but compelled to commit to a form of social change that you commit to over the longer term. Then you have to find away to associate yourself with others doing the same.

I think that activism is for me a natural expression of your responsibility as a citizen. And you can’t depend on others being willing to get out there and take the risks and put themselves on the line. Because in the end, we are “We, the people.”

**bonnie raines
civil rights/peace activist
citizens commission to
investigate the FBI
helped expose COINTELPRO**



#radicaldemocracy

FEMINIST
AF

#radicaldemocracy



We are actively committed to struggling against racial, sexual, heterosexual, and class oppression, and see as our particular task the development of integrated analysis and practice based upon the fact that the major systems of oppression are interlocking.

The synthesis of these oppressions creates the conditions of our lives.

As Black women we see Black feminism as the logical political movement to combat the manifold and simultaneous oppressions that all women of color face.

***The Combahee River
Collective Statement,
1979***



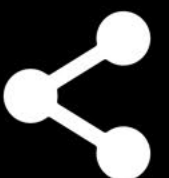
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We need to bring to life a new form of politics that is the alternative on the left to both neoliberalism and this scary, racist nationalism.

That's what we need to do, and that has to be our focus, starting NOW.

**Tobita Chow
People's Lobby
@People's Summit
2016**

#radicaldemocracy



Enormous changes
taking place in our
society make it both
possible and urgently
necessary to advance
the unfinished
revolution of women
toward true equality,
now.

*National Organization of
Women's Statement of Purpose
1966*



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**Forget everything
you've been taught.**

Start by dreaming.

The Situationist International

Situationist International, 1968

The Situationist I

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It's up to us to
reimagine the
alternatives
and not just
protest against
them and
expect them
to do better.



#radicaldemocracy

Grace Lee Boggs
Teacher/Revolutionary
1915-2015

there
is
absolutely
no
inevitability
as
long
as
there
is
a
willingness
to
contemplate
what
is
happening

marshall mcluhan/1967





imagine

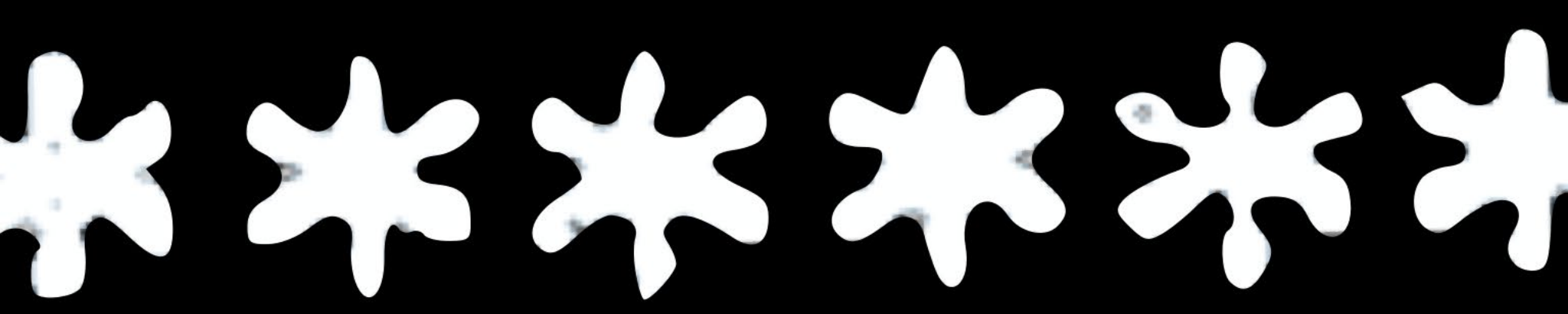
**A left movement
requires more than idealism
and passion:**

**Intellectually,
it must have knowledge;
it must have understanding
and analysis; and it must
have a social program and
prescription which translate
radical vision into
concrete realities.**

**Radical Education Project
1966**



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The Freedom Movement was expansive. It was about transforming the entire country.

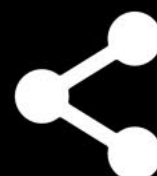
It was not simply about acquiring civil rights within a framework that itself would not change.

***Freedom is a Constant Struggle*
2015**

Angela Davis

Revolutionary

#radicaldemocracy



**The human imagination
stubbornly refuses to die.**

**And the moment any
significant number of people
simultaneously shake off the
shackles that have been placed
on their collective imagination,
even our most deeply
inculcated assumptions about
what is and is not politically
possible have been known to
crumble overnight.**

**David Graeber,
*The Democracy Project***



#radicaldemocracy

We're not taught about the real immigration history in this country, just like we're not taught about the real slavery that happened here, the fights, the civil rights movement. Not just Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, but Miss Ella Baker, Malcom X, Marcus Garvey.

Sofia Campos



**Wildfire Project
United We Dream
Freedom Side Network
IDEAS@UCLA**



#radicaldemocracy



**“ Nobody’s
free until
everybody’s free.**

**Fannie Lou Hamer
civil rights leader
Mississippi Freedom
Democratic Party 1964**



**up
against
the
wall
mother-
fucker**

#radicaldemocracy



In moments like this — when the old system is crumbling and a new one is not yet in sight — progressive activists and organizers can change the course of history. But to succeed, we'll have to change our perspective and start thinking in ways that are unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable.

We must set a bold agenda for a radically more progressive future, or we will end up in a world even less humane than the one we already have.

The Movement We Need:

Think Strategically, Act Strategically
The People's Lobby USA, 2014

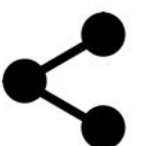


#radicaldemocracy

Our youth are no longer satisfied with corrupt and broken politics and an economy of stark inequality and injustice. They are not satisfied with the destruction of our environment by a fossil fuel industry whose greed has put short term profits ahead of climate change and the future of our planet.

They want to live in harmony with nature, not destroy it. They are calling out for a return to fairness; for an economy that defends the common good by ensuring that every person, rich or poor, has access to quality health care, nutrition and education.

bernie sanders/2016



Movements are large groups of people organizing outside of establishment systems and institutions, usually to right a moral wrong that the establishment refuses to acknowledge or address.

Adapted from **The Long Sixties**,
Tom Hayden



**Let's tell
the world—
we're going
to have a
revolution!**

**RoseAnn DeMoro
Executive Director of
National Nurses United
People's Summit, 2016**

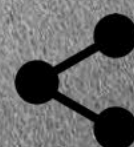


The greatest lie told to the American people today is that we really have no power to change things, that the most we can do is vote for the lesser evil and keep our chin up.

Yet history teaches the opposite is true.

We have vastly more power than our political parties or the mainstream media would have us believe.

**Michelle Alexander, author,
*The New Jim Crow***



WAKE
UP



Stopping the climate crisis is impossible to wrap your head around, because stopping it is impossible.

But navigating the climate crisis to a place of stability and the new way of life it will demand — that's not only easy for me to imagine, it's easy to get excited about envisioning what it means.

Joshua Kahn Russel

350.org, Ruckus Society,
Wildfire Project



“Frontline communities” are the peoples living directly alongside fossil-fuel pollution and extraction—overwhelmingly Indigenous Peoples, Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander peoples in working class, poor, and peasant communities in the US and around the world. **In climate disruption and extreme weather events, we are hit first and worst.**

We are Mother Earth’s red line. We don’t have the luxury of settling for industry or politicians’ hype or half measures. We know it takes roots to weather the storm and that’s why we are building a people’s climate movement rooted in our communities.

We are the frontlines of the solution: keeping fossil fuels in the ground and transforming the economy with innovative, community-led solutions.

**We Are Mother Earth’s Red Line
Grass Roots Global Justice Alliance
2016**



#radicaldemocracy

radical change is **systemic** change.

**If you don't change the system you
won't change the results it produces.**



radicaldemocracy.net



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TOWARD A FEMALE LIBERATION MOVEMENT by

Beverly Jones and Judith Brown

do-it-yourself destiny
or, how
to transform
yourself
with a
curling iron

But, there are two parts of your body you've completely neglected. And there they stand, wrapped in dry, rough skin.
Your two ugly feet.



The Ring Cycle
Total Eclipse

Efficiency experts: Women protesters dispense food in chow line

Sun, wind and water make your hair as dry and brittle as straw. Pretty soon you have split ends, and no shine. So do you have to stay inside or hide under a hat?

One black woman reacted against this recently by sending in a false fire alarm, then waiting for the police to arrive. "I just wanted you to know, you bastards, who's been turning in these alarms," she said, and walked away.

No wonder millions of women in 106 countries have used over 20 billions of them.

Another Time, Another Face

the beauty life:

even if you use only part of your time. You can train at home without interrupting your regular duties.

HOW TO TELL THE WORLD WHO'S MASTER!

Instant Shanti.
poo: it could save
you 200 hours a
year!

ATTACHMENT for treatment
by one person on another (a must for hard
to reach areas).....\$2.50

I am to please with myself and my
I went from a 32D to a 36B.
developed

with gentle Insertion Guides (No tubes)

Authorities were afraid
Thomas would disrupt the jail.
Inside the jail, prisoners tore up
their cells for three days, after
Mrs. Thomas was put in solitary
confinement and sprayed re-ent-
edly with MACE.
down the walls and lay in pools on
the floor.

35¢



1968

Gainesville, Fla.



#radicaldemocracy

Social movements are collective actions in which the populace is alerted, educated, and mobilized, over years and decades, to challenge the powerholders and the whole society to redress social problems or grievances and restore critical social values.

By involving the populace directly in the political process, social movements also foster the concept of government of, by, and for the people. The power of movements is directly proportional to the forcefulness with which the grassroots exert their discontent and demand change.

The central issue of social movements, therefore, is the struggle between the movement and the powerholders to win the hearts (sympathies), minds (public opinion), and active support of the great majority of the populace, which ultimately holds the power to either preserve the status quo or create change.

**The Movement Action Plan
Bill Moyer/Movement for a
New Society/1987**



MOVEMENT

NOVEMBER, 1968

VOL. 4, NO. 10

COLUMBIA
WALLACE
RUBIN
CUBA

20¢



THE MOVEMENT PRESS
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SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
94103

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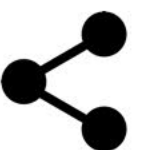
We are deeply concerned with the unprecedented destruction of our Mother Earth: the contamination of our air, waters, and soil; the atrocities of war; the global scourge of poverty; the threat of nuclear weapons and waste; the prevailing culture of materialism, the epidemics that threaten the health of the earth's peoples; the exploitation of indigenous medicines; and the destruction of indigenous ways of life.

**International Council of
Thirteen Indigenous
Grandmothers
2004**



**Never be
deceived that
the rich will let
you vote away
their wealth.**

Lucy Parson
Labor Organizer
Radical Socialist
Anarchist



**Once social change begins
it cannot be reversed.**

**You cannot un-educate the
person who has learned to
read. You can not humiliate
the person who feels pride.**

**You cannot oppress the
people who are not afraid
any more.**

Cesar Chavez

Labor/Civil Rights Movements

United FarmWorkers Union



We believe that Women's Rights are Human Rights and Human Rights are Women's Rights.

We must create a society in which women - including Black women, Native women, poor women, immigrant women, disabled women, Muslim women, lesbian, queer and trans women - are free and able to care for and nurture their families, however they are formed, in safe and healthy environments free from structural impediments.

**Unity Principles
Women's March on
Washington, 2017**



#radicaldemocracy

The '60s movements stumbled to an end largely because we'd won the major reforms that were demanded:

the 1964 and 1965 civil and voting rights laws, the end of the draft and the Vietnam War, passage of the War Powers Resolution and the Freedom of Information Act, Nixon's environmental laws, amnesty for war resisters, two presidents forced from office, the 18-year-old vote, union recognition of public employees and farmworkers, disability rights, the decline of censorship, the emergence of gays and lesbians from a shadow existence...

Perhaps never in US history had so many changes occurred in so short a time, all driven by the vibrancy of participatory democracy.

Tom Hayden

PHS 50th Anniversary

Participatory Democracy: From the Port
Huron Statement to Occupy Wall Street

#radicaldemocracy



➤ [#පළමුවැන්න](#)



We took the social networks,
we took the streets and We
took the squares. However,
we found that change was
being blocked from above
by the institutions. We
couldn't allow this.

So, we decided that the
moment had arrived to take
back the institutions and put
them at the service of the
common good.

How to Win Back the City Guide

Barcelona En Comú, 2016



#radicaldemocracy

**When people learn that
they can change things by
their own work, they
learn self-reliance.**

**Discovering that they
have untapped power
has revolutionary
implications.**

**George Lakey/
Movement for a New Society
Strategy for a Living Revolution,
1973**



#radicaldemocracy

I think there's a generation gap in the Movement, so it's real important that we have inter-generational spaces. There's so much we could learn, and so many ways to innovate from what we've already learned about Movement history.

What we're really fighting for is to be in real community with each other, and have real relationships with each other. And I've been able to feel that and experience that in the Movement.

That's what I fight for every day.

**jonel edwards/dream defenders
movement for black lives**



#radicaldemocracy



LOVE
{is a}
REVOLUTION

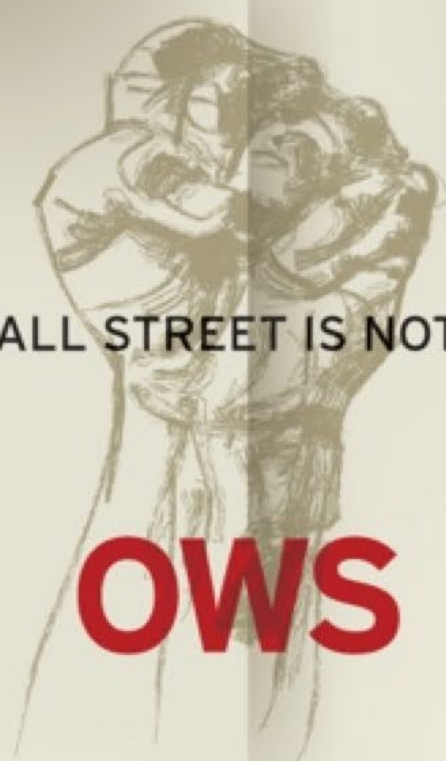
**To ask a
politician to
lead us is to
ask the tail of
a dog to lead
the dog.**

**buckminster fuller
1895-1983**



OCCUPY

OCCUPY WALL STREET IS NOT GOING AWAY.



OWS



**As long as politics is
the shadow cast on
society by big business,
the attenuation of the
shadow will not change
the substance.**

John Dewey
philosopher/educator
1859-1952



#radicaldemocracy

Often the missing element in revolution isn't critique: it's confidence, it's agency. It's a sense that if we take an action we change the world.

And when enough of us believe that, and take that collective action in the same direction, indeed we do change the world.

Bill Ayers

**professor of education,
retired/University of
Chicago/SDS/co-founder,
Weather Underground**



#radicaldemocracy



ACTION



The times, the politics, have called us to act. These are dark times, they're disruptive times, and I have an obligation to listen to the call to act.

To speak with **love, with truth. To speak to power with **love**. We don't hear enough of it in the culture, we don't hear enough of it in the air, we don't feel enough of it.**

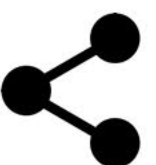
If I can play a small part in helping to instill **love into the conversation, into the politics, then it's been a good day.**

David Kyuman Kim

Love-Driven Politics Collective



#radicaldemocracy



Upon suffering beyond suffering; the Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world. A world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations.

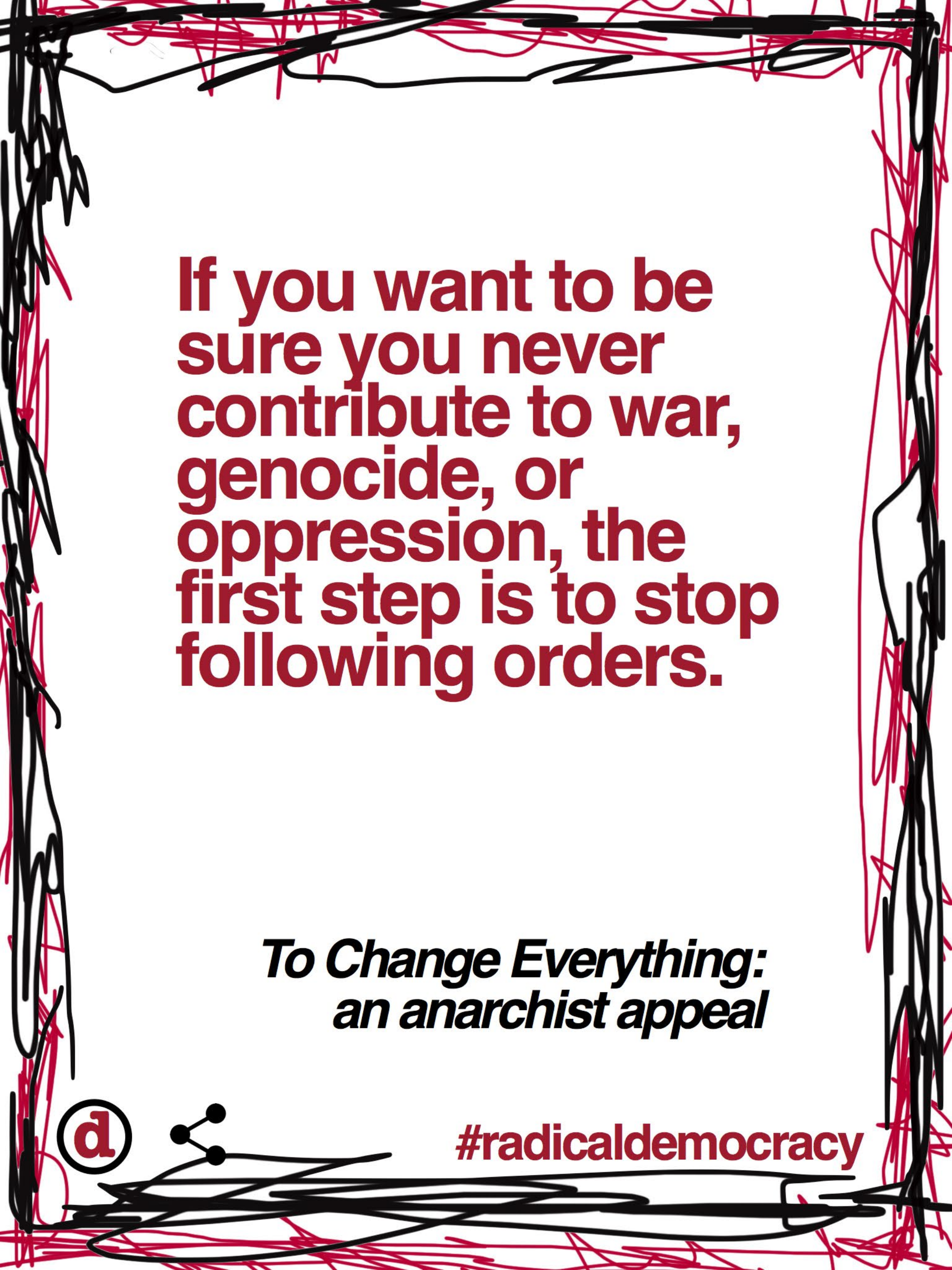
A world longing for light again. I see a time of seven generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again. In that day there will be those among the Lakota who will carry knowledge and understanding of unity among all living things, and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom.

I salute the light within your eyes where the whole universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am that place within me, we shall be as one.

**Crazy Horse, Lakota
Warrior and Leader
1842-1877**



#radicaldemocracy



**If you want to be
sure you never
contribute to war,
genocide, or
oppression, the
first step is to stop
following orders.**

***To Change Everything:
an anarchist appeal***



#radicaldemocracy

This is not just about standing up on this one issue. This is about Native people, in Indian country, but also about Americans in Flint, Michigan. It's about water for everyone.

Water is life. It's not just rhetoric. All of life is born in water, in the womb of the Mother.

The linear age of man is over. It's incumbent upon women and the circular motion that is going to prevail.

**Phyllis Young
Former councilwoman and Elder,
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Organizer, Seven Council Fires Camp**



#radicaldemocracy

**#waterislife
#standingrock**

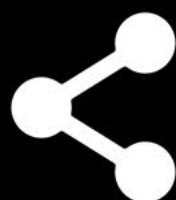
For years I labored with the idea of reforming the existing institutions of the society, a little change here, a little change there.

Now I feel quite differently.

I think you've got to have a reconstruction of the entire society, a revolution of values.

MLK

**#getwoke
#staywoke**



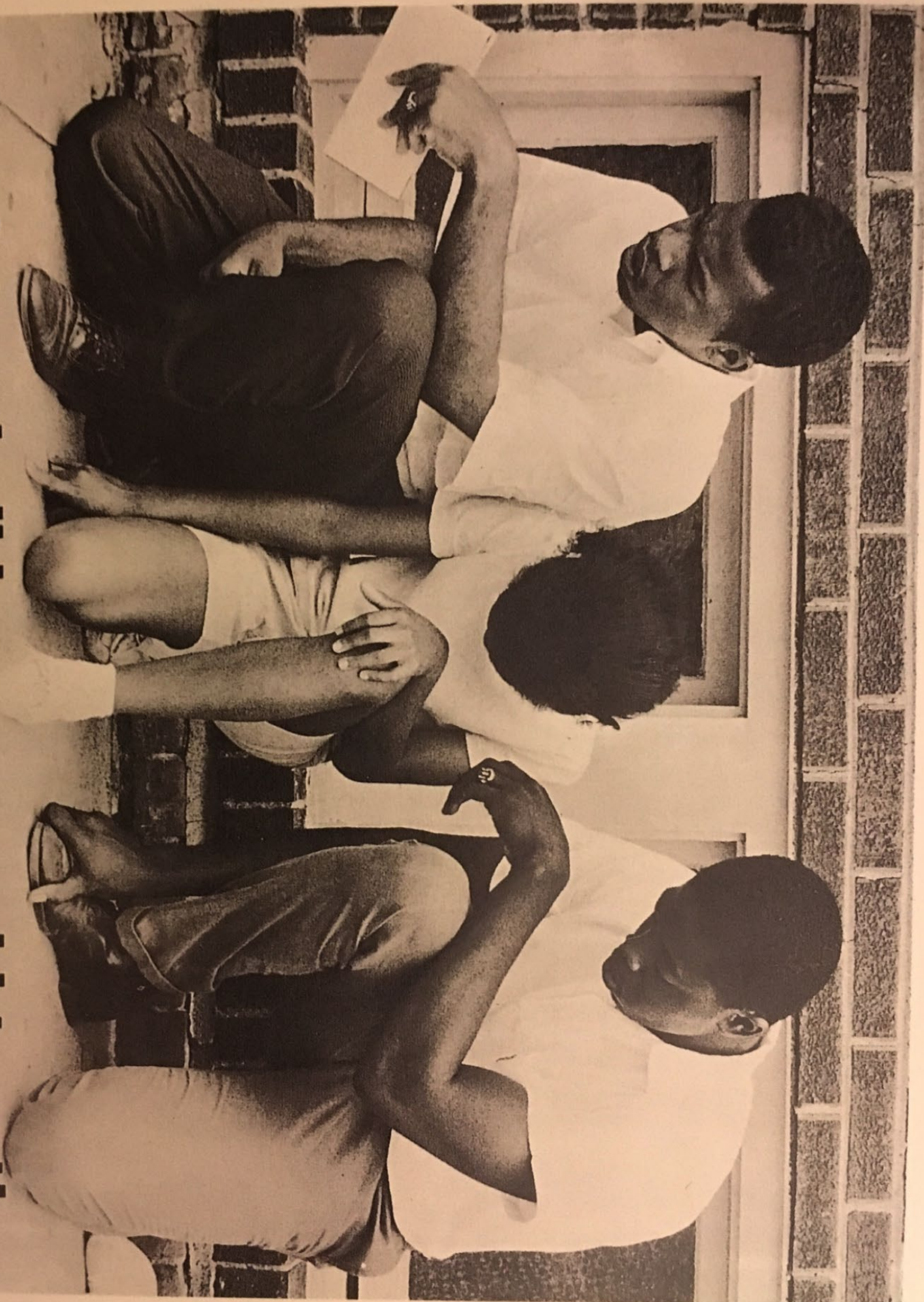
**#radical
democracy**

To change society we must change ourselves, our consciousness, our collective story. A new story, a new framing narrative, is being collectively co-created by people around the world yearning for a more just and joyful existence. This vision, this story, this song of ourselves, is based on empathy, respect, and co-operation. Aided by an open internet, this new shared vision of reality is spreading quickly.

It will change the world.



#radicaldemocracy



come let us build a new world together

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

8 1/2 RAYMOND STREET, N.W. ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA





INTERVIEWS

Alan Haber/Students for a Democratic Society/Megiddo Peace Project

Nabil Hassein/Millions March/M4BL

**Maria Svart/Nat'l Director
Democratic Socialists of America**

**Jonel Edwards/Dream
Defenders/M4BL**

**Bob Moses/Student Nonviolent Coordinating
Committee/Algebra Project**

**Tom Hayden/SDS
/Peace Activist/CA State Rep**

**Winnie Wong/Occupy Wall St/
People4Bernie Sanders**

INTERVIEWS

con't

**Dominique Scott/United Students
Against Sweatshops/M4BL**

**Bill Ayers/SDS/Weather Underground/
Education Reform**

**Bruce Hartford/Congress of Racial Equality/
SDS/SCLC/Labor/CRMVet.org**

**Joshua Kahn Russell/350.org/Ruckus
Society/Wildfire Project/Bay Area Solidarity
Action Team**

**Bonnie Raines/Civil Rights&Peace Activist/
Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI**

**Moumita Ahmed/
Millennials for Bernie/Revolution**

INTERVIEWS

con't

**Yotam Moram/Occupy Wall Street/
Wildfire Project**

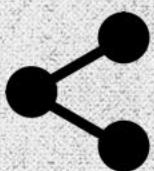
**Sofia Campos/Wildfire Project/
United We Dream/IDEAS**

**John Raines/Freedom Rider/Citizens
Committee to Investigate the FBI**

**David Ian Robin/
Millennials for Revolution**

**This collective material residue
of the struggle as it has
unfolded, when recapitulated
from the perspective of victory,
will be the material of our
history.**

**Alan Haber
Students for a
Democratic Society**



#radicaldemocracy



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**YOU CAN ONLY
PROTEST
EFFECTIVELY
WHEN YOU
LOVE THE
PERSON WHOSE
IDEAS YOU ARE
PROTESTING
AGAINST AS
MUCH AS
YOU LOVE
YOURSELF.**



ram dass
be here now
1978

#radicaldemocracy

.v.). On the other hand, **radical** was readopted, especially in the United States from the late 1950s, in a sense very close to its earlier use; as such it is often virtually equivalent to *socialist* or *revolutionary*, and has gathered the same range of responses as in that earlier period. The choice of **radical**, especially in the United States though it has been imitated in Europe and elsewhere, is probably be related to mC20 difficulties in the definition of **SOCIALIST** and **COMMUNIST** (qq.v. and cf. *Marxist*). **Radical** offered a way of avoiding dogmatic and factional associations, while asserting the need for vigorous and fundamental change. At the same time it avoided some of the difficulties in **REVOLUTIONARY** (q.v.), making a necessary distinction between an armed *revolution* and militant opposition to the political system. **Radical** then carried meanings beyond its received mC20 meanings, but the problems of definition (including matters of 'dogma' and 'faction', or of principle and organization) were in the end not evaded by revival of the term. In extension from these movements, there is a set of associations with *alternative* social perspectives, as in **radical technology**. It is interesting that the old phrase **radical reform** (q.v.) has been taken into the contrasted **radical** and *reformist*, within the *radical* movement, while elsewhere **radical** (with *militant*) does so in contrast with *moderate* (which in practice is often a euphemism for everyone, however insistent and committed, who is not **radical**).

See **COMMUNISM**, **LIBERAL**, **PROGRESSIVE**, **REFORM**, **REFORMISM**, **SOCIALIST**.